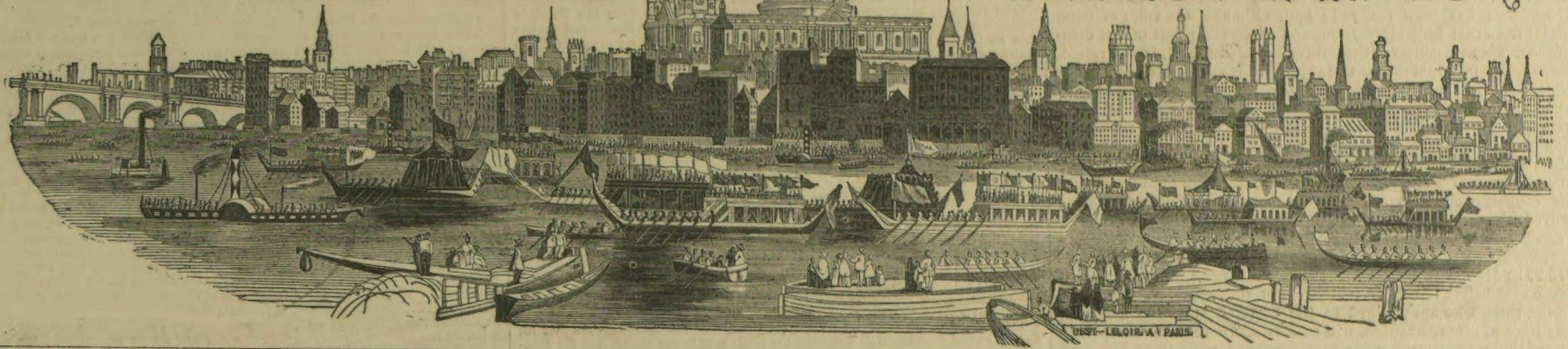


# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1849.

[SIXPENCE.]

## RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR.

THE year 1849 approaches to its close; and men and nations begin to reflect upon its history, and to recal the lessons which it was its privilege to teach. It was essentially a year of subsidence—a time of reaction—a period immediately succeeding a great physical and moral convulsion, when men, alarmed at the progress of innovation, held back and asked themselves whither they were going, and what was the ultimate goal of the revolutions that had been effected.

It was not possible that the violent commotions of 1848 could be suffered to continue. In every part of Europe, the scattered, dismayed, and discomfited party whose material interests had been damaged, whose love of order had been outraged, and whose old ideas had been shocked by the progress of revolution, took heart once more, and joined their forces to stay the march of evil. Success rewarded their efforts; and society having been held together, and prevented from a collapse, by the physical force of standing armies, the nations of the Continent had leisure to ask themselves whether they were in reality ripe for the liberty they desired, and to debate upon the measures to be taken for giving stability to newer institutions, and preventing liberty from degenerating into

licentiousness and anarchy. Real liberty has lost nothing by the delay. Reflection has brought wisdom: the violent and the premature have learned to watch and to wait; the over-sanguine have become convinced of the foolishness of hasty theory; and men have been forced to confess that order is not only the first law of Heaven, but the first law of nature and humanity.

If we look around us, we see that in every country of Europe where there was revolution in 1848, there has been reaction in 1849. France, groaning under the weight of an enormous national debt, a yearly increasing deficit in her revenues, an unproductive and much-consuming army of half a million of men, and a general stagnation of trade and commerce, saw no other hope than in order and repose, and the consequent diminution of this fearful police of 500,000 men arrayed by society against itself. The Republic being a fact, was accepted as a fact, and the best men in the country devoted their energies to its consolidation. Germany, torn by factions, her chief cities at the mercy of mobs, her Kings playing at cross-purposes with each other, saw amid all the confusion, which well nigh blinded the eyes of her best and clearest-sighted men, that the time for theorising had not come; that the world was not ready for a free and united Teutonic empire, and that in Prussia, in Austria, in Bavaria—in every state of the confederation

—order was the first necessity of political existence. As in France, order was only secured by the force of standing armies. In Italy we see the same spectacle, though rendered somewhat more difficult and complex by the participation of an alien force in the struggles between a Sovereign and his people. It is, nevertheless, the same story: Liberty made rampant—losing her way—degenerating into anarchy; and, as a last resource, an overwhelming army welcomed in to prevent the total dissolution of society. Yet, in none of these countries has there in reality been a retrogression. Physical force can never wholly rule the world; and moral force is accumulating in each, which will one day restore the equilibrium which has been lost, and secure to each nation such liberty, and no more, as it can understand and appreciate.

Great Britain has been spared these struggles; but she has had other difficulties to contend with of almost equal magnitude. A period of unparalleled commercial distress reached its climax in the year which has just passed. Ireland, which ought to be our strength and our security, was reduced to the lowest ebb of suffering; her peasantry became more wretched than the most degraded savages that roam over the wilds of an uncultivated country; and the experiment of a Poor-law, tried for their benefit with the most humane intentions, became a source of aggravated oppression and





## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

## FRANCE.

The aspect of things is beginning to look very anti-republican as far as concerns the President, M. Louis Napoleon. Felicitations from crowned heads have begun to pour in upon him because of his stanch support of "order."

The Emperor of Austria has sent his portrait, richly framed, as a present to the President of the Republic, accompanied by an autograph letter, in which he compliments him on the important services he has rendered the cause of order and society. The President has commanded the portrait to be placed in the most conspicuous position in the grand salon of the Elysée.

The President has likewise received an autograph letter from the Pope, in which his Holiness informs him of his proximate return to Rome, and thanks him for having freed his dominions from the oppression of an anarchical and anti-Christian faction.

Christmas-Day being kept a close holiday in Paris, the Legislative Assembly did not meet; and the public administrations, the Courts of Justice, and the Bourse remained closed. The churches were unusually crowded. At St. Sulpice, St. Roch, and La Madeleine, where the solemnity of the service and the exquisite music attract the greatest multitude, police and Republican guards were stationed in the interior to keep the passage free and prevent confusion.

In all the churches, midnight mass ushered in the great festival. The effect produced by the illumination of the various chapels and altars in each was magnificent.

Nothing has transpired as yet to confirm the words of Louis Napoleon to the committee of the Boulogne Railroad, "*Les passeports sont abolis*." Letters from Boulogne and Calais state that there has been neither abolition nor modification, and no orders for either one or the other have been received from the Minister of the Interior at the Prefecture of Police. It is stated, however, on good authority, that the principle of abolition has been decided upon by the Cabinet, but subject to variations according to the frontier, and it is probable that the application of the principle as regards British subjects has been merely delayed by unavoidable formalities.

The *Réforme* was seized on Monday, by order of the Attorney-General, for having copied from the *Northern Star* the address of Ledru Rollin, and his companions in exile, to the Democrats of Great Britain.

In consequence of Christmas-Day being observed strictly by the composers and printers, few of the Paris papers were published on Tuesday morning, and those that did appear were destitute of news.

The business transacted in the Assembly on Wednesday was unimportant; but, during the discussion, one of the members made some harsh observations, which induced the President to call him to order, when the speaker openly insulted that honourable officer, who immediately put on his hat, and suspended the sitting.

Socialist principles are rapidly extending at Montpellier; and so bold and outrageous are the defenders of these doctrines, that great alarm is excited in the minds of the peaceable and well-disposed, lest violence should follow.

Accounts from Toulon, dated the 22nd inst., mention that the Mediterranean squadron, on its return, is to be dismantled.

The editor of the *Travailleur de l'Indre*, having published that paper contrary to the regulations established for the government of such journals, has been tried, found guilty, sentenced to pay a fine of 5000fr., and to be imprisoned for twelve months.

The President of the Republic has conferred on the Marquis Emmanuel d'Azeglio, at present Sardinian Chargé d'Affaires in London, the Cross of Commander of the Legion of Honour. This distinction is intended to mark the President's satisfaction at the manner in which the Marquis d'Azeglio performed, *ad interim*, the duties of Minister in Paris.

Prince Frederick of Prussia has arrived in Paris.

## ITALIAN STATES.

**PIEDMONT.**—The Sardinian Parliament was opened on the 20th, at Turin, with a speech from the throne by the King in person, as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.—The circumstances which induced me to dissolve the Parliament, and which, after an appeal to the country, have led me to convoke a new one, are not of a nature to impress us with sorrow. They have matured us for that school in which alone political life is to be learnt—the school of experience. They have afforded us a noble example of faith and concord, existing between a people and its ruler. They have offered the country an opportunity of proving that it is able to maintain its political institutions, and worthy of its liberty. Our condition, which I describe as serious, and which, some time ago, was not much changed; but our relations with friendly powers have become less difficult, and our credit has recovered; still, the most important questions, both foreign and domestic, are yet pending. This unsettled state would, if it were lasting, impair our reputation in the eyes of other nations, and make us lose the institutions, which, being expected to promote good administration and progress, would appear to have caused disorder in the former, and impeded the latter. It is for you to stop these fatal consequences. A new and firmer confidence within me concerning the future destiny of the country and of our institutions. The electors have listened to my voice—they have hastened in numbers to give their votes. It is with heartfelt satisfaction I express my gratitude to them on this solemn occasion. I consider the service they have done the country as a service done to me—nay, it is dearer and more acceptable to me, as I am more anxious for the public weal than for myself. I need not allude to the questions which, on account of their urgency, require an immediate solution. They are sufficiently known to you. All I need do, therefore, is, to recommend a prompt decision of them to your prudence.

Gentlemen of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.—I have done all in my power to strengthen the political institutions founded by Charles Albert, my father, of august memory; but the will or decree of a King is not sufficient to cause their taking deep root in the hearts and wills of the people, unless it be proved that they are really useful and beneficial in their practical application. This indispensable sanction is now entrusted to your wisdom. I must remind you that a greater opportunity never before occurred for its exercise; and, in the name of that fatherland which we all bear in our hearts, I urge you to banish every other thought save that of healing its wounds and procuring its welfare and honour.

**TUSCANY.**—The Tuscan Government intends convoke the Chambers about the beginning of February. The Minister of Finance has decided that no more Treasury Bonds for the loan shall be sold under 90 per cent. This decision is to be attributed to the offer of a great banking establishment to buy all the remaining bonds at that price.

**VENICE.**—Accounts from Venice of the 17th announce that the Italian Tyrol is to be united to the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom.

**ROME.**—If we are to believe the rumours that come *via* Paris from the "Eternal City," the Pope's return may be speedily expected. Reports, however, of quite an opposite character are equally ripe, and nothing seems certain on that or any point of Roman politics. On the 17th inst., General Baraguay d'Hilliers passed a review of troops going to relieve the garrisons of Albano, Frascati, and Tivoli.

**NAPLES.**—According to advices dated the 17th inst., the whole Neapolitan population is made to feel the military despotism of Ferdinand II. A new list of nearly 150 names was in the hands of the Executive, whilst Naples was already deprived of nearly every liberal-minded citizen it possessed. All who contributed to the constitutional journals were under mandate of arrest. Vengeance is the order of the day; the Government gains courage as it advances, and every new capture but adds to its thirst for more victims.

## GERMAN STATES.

On the 20th instant the Archduke John, the Reichsverweser, ceased to control the affairs of the German central power, having, at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, in the Palace of his Highness at Frankfurt, transferred the German central power into the hands of the Austrian and Prussian Plenipotentiaries, in accordance with the treaty of the 30th September. The following is the official minute of the proceedings:—

Done at Frankfurt-on-the-Maine, in the Palace of his Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser, on Thursday, the 20th December, 1849.

His Imperial Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser having repeatedly expressed a wish to resign the dignity of German Reichsverweser, and the negotiations entered into in accordance with the treaty of the 30th September, 1848, between the Austrian and Prussian Governments, for the creation of a different federal central power, having resulted in an agreement between those powers, and the Governments of Germany having approved of that agreement, and His Imperial Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser having appointed the Privy Councillor and Field-Marshal von Schenkels, and the Privy Councillor and Chancellor of the Le-pold order, Charles Freiherr von Kubeck-Kubau, and His Majesty the King of Prussia having also appointed Lieut.-Gen. von Radowicz and President Botticher as their respective members of the Federal Commission, in accordance with the said agreement, and they having produced the full powers to act as such from their respective Sovereigns, the commissioners mentioned above met together on the invitation of his Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser, in order to receive and record his resignation of that dignity.

At one o'clock his Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser entered the saloon, attended by his Ministers—Prince Sayn-Wittgenstein; Berleburg, President of the Ministry and Minister of War; Herr Jochims, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Marine; Herr Detwold, Minister of Justice, Trade, and Interior; and Herr Merck, Minister of Finance. The agreement concluded at Vienna on the 30th September, 1848, between the Austrian and Prussian Governments, for the purpose of creating a new federal central power, together with documents ratifying it, were produced by the commissioners of the respective powers, together with the declarations of adhesion of the whole of the Governments of Germany, with the exception of Oldenburg, which has, however, sent in a preliminary assurance of its adhesion, and of Luxembourg—the adhesion of which state was, however, not doubted, as the Grand Duke had already given his consent to it, Duke of Limburg.

These documents, together with the powers accorded to the commissioners by their respective Sovereigns, were added to the protocols.

His Imperial Highness the Archduke Reichsverweser then delivered a dignified address, suited to the occasion, and the Imperial Austrian Privy Councillor, Freiherr Kubeck-Kubau, having replied, the protocol was signed by all parties present.

## PRUSSIA.

The Berlin official *Gazette* contains a Royal proclamation of the 21st inst., remodelling and lowering the rates of postage throughout the kingdom of Prussia. The postage for a letter weighing less than half an ounce is fixed at 1d. for a distance of 10 leagues; at 2d. for 20 leagues; and at 3d. for any distance exceeding 20 leagues. Postage stamps for these respective sums are being introduced into the Prussian postal system. The new law is to take effect on and from the 1st of January, 1850.

From a report of the expenditure of the Prussian State, we learn that the sum which is annually devoted to the civil department amounts to 63,005,831 dollars. Among the various items of the account we find an annual grant of 226,000 dollars devoted to purposes of Protestant worship, while the Roman Catholic church has a grant of 719,465 dollars. The joint salaries of nine Ministers of State are 98,200 dollars, and those of 195 directors and councillors, 462,750 dollars.

An interesting part of the report is the statement of the expenses of the military department; according to which the total number of the Line amounts to 121,851 men, and their pay to the sum of 9,098,180 dollars.

The pay of the Landwehr is 733,036 dollars; making a total for pay of Landwehr and line of 9,821,216 dollars. The annual allowance for uniforms for the army and Landwehr is 1,427,371 dollars.

A letter from Berlin of the 21st inst., in the *Cologne Gazette*, states, that Russia, France, and England have declared for Prussia in the difference with the Austrian Court.

## AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The Military Governor of Hungary, Baron Haynau, is endeavouring to become popular; he has founded an institution at Pesth, to be called the "Haynau-Stiftung," for the relief of the Imperial soldiers and Honveds wounded during the late war. In the programme issued on the occasion, the Commander-in-Chief speaks of his former Honved opponents as of "misguided," not rebellious, men.

A deputation from Hungary lately arrived at Vienna, to petition Government to take some measures towards the payment of Kosuth notes. Although it was acknowledged the case was a hard one, the petition was rejected, and it was again positively declared that the revolutionary paper in question must be considered as totally invalid.

## UNITED STATES.

Intelligence to the 12th inst. from New York has come to hand. The American President's message, so anxiously looked for, was not delivered, owing to the House of Representatives not having elected a Speaker. The thirty-first balloting took place on the 10th, with no better success than before. The opposing candidates are Mr. Winthrop (the Speaker of the last House) and Mr. Cobb, of Ohio (put forward by the Locofocos). The latter gentleman has been at length withdrawn, in favour of Mr. Potter, of Ohio. Two-thirds of the House are necessary to elect a Speaker, and of this number Mr. Winthrop has been ten or twelve deficient. Mr. Isaac Morse proposed a summary solution of the difficulty in the following resolution:—

"Resolved—That the names of Howell Cobb and Robert C. Winthrop be placed in a box, and the first name drawn (by a page of the House) shall be Speaker."

Mr. Morse: The plan which I have proposed, it occurs to me, is the most rational as well as the most feasible one to put an end to a contest which is now regarded by men of all parties as partaking largely of the character of the ridiculous. We cannot longer trifle with the wishes or interests of our constituents. They look to us to proceed with the business of the country with all practical despatch, and can see no good reason why there should be further delay in the organisation of this House. Members may endeavour to console themselves with the difficulties of 1839 as a precedent; but the cases are not parallel. At that time the delay was occasioned, not by the Speaker's election, but by the disputed seats of the New Jersey election. As the case now stands, the obstinacy of one or two individuals may prevent for ever an organisation; and it is, therefore, due to the legislation of the country, that the Whigs and Democrats—the two great parties—should unite on some plan to put down that disorganising spirit which has manifested itself.

Fourth ballot on the 10th.—Winthrop, of Massachusetts (Whig), 101; Brown, of Indiana (Locofoco), 53; other votes, 70.

This is the latest intelligence brought by the packet on the subject of the election. The next steamer will, in all probability, put us in possession of the result, and with it, very likely, the President's message, which could not be delivered, nor the business of Congress proceeded with, until the House had made its selection. The Opposition have a decided majority in the House, but it is composed of the most discordant elements.

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO.

Considerable excitement was said to prevail at Nicaragua, according to the latest accounts which are dated November 8th. Mr. Chatfield, on the part of the British Government, had taken possession of the island of Tigre. He landed an armed force on the island about the middle of October, tore down the flag of Honduras, and ran up that of England in its place. Mr. Squier, the American Minister, promptly protested against the transaction, and a spirited correspondence ensued. Other acts of a similar character are stated to have been committed. The islands of the Gulf belonging to Honduras and San Salvador have been seized, and also the ports of Truxillo and Moro.

Affairs in Mexico are quiet, and Herrera, the President, is popular. Several small attempts had been made at revolution, but they proved signal failures. Santa Anna has no prospect of resuming his former position in Mexico. The road from Vera Cruz to Mexico is now well guarded, and no robberies have lately been committed on the diligences. A grant has lately been made by the Mexican Congress to establish telegraphs throughout the Republic. A proposal is also before the Congress, made by an American citizen, to build a railroad from Vera Cruz to Acapulco, on the Pacific, passing through the city of Mexico.

The French Consul at Matamoros had become embroiled with the authorities. He was accused of writing articles in a public journal of an unfriendly bearing on the authorities. Although he disclaimed the imputation, he was arrested, and held to answer to allegations which were to be preferred against him by General Avalos, the Mexican Commandant on the Rio Grande.

A battle has taken place on the plains in the vicinity of Fort Kearney, between a band of Pawnee Indians and a company of the United States Dragoons, under Lieutenant Ogile. Several of the Indians were killed, and a large number wounded. Seven of the dragoons were wounded, two of them, it is supposed, fatally.

In Texas, the Legislature was proceeding with the despatch of business, but nothing worthy of special record has occurred.

## CANADA.

The annexation movement in Canada is steadily advancing. An apparent check was given to it by the news from England, but public opinion remains unchanged. The Indian troubles at Lake Superior have gone no further. The troops sent up have not been heard from, but no further outrages have been committed.

## CALIFORNIA.

The dates from San Francisco are to the 1st of November. At that time there were not less than 100 British vessels in the harbour. A large number of arrivals from Europe and the United States were taking place daily. The present population of San Francisco, at the most moderate estimate, is reckoned at least 15,000. One year since it was not over 500. Since October 1, the population of California has been increased by about 15,000 emigrants, 4000 of whom arrived at San Francisco by sea.

The constitution adopted by the Convention at Monterey was completed on the 11th of October, and was to be laid before the people for their final ratification on the 13th of November. The public opinion was nearly unanimous in its favour, and it has, no doubt, been accepted by the people with no important opposition.

The following summary embraces the principal features in the new state document:—Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crime, can be tolerated within the state. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious worship, without distinction of sect or creed, is guaranteed; nor shall any person be rendered incompetent as a witness on account of his religious opinions. Imprisonment for debt is prohibited, except in cases of fraud. Foreigners actually residing within the limits of the state shall enjoy the same rights of property as native citizens. No lottery shall be authorised by the State, nor the sale of lottery tickets be permitted. No person, company, or corporation shall be allowed to exercise the privilege of banking or to create paper money as a circulating medium. All office, judicial and administrative, are to be filled by the vote of the people. The property of married women, owned by them before marriage, and that acquired afterwards by gift or inheritance, is secured to them independent of their husbands. The Legislature is to enact provisions for the protection of the homestead from forced sale on legal process. The power of the Legislature to contract debts is subjected to rigid limitations. Duelling is made a disqualification to elect or to be elected. A school fund on a liberal scale is to be provided.

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The latest information from the Cape is to the 3rd of November. The colonists were animated by the same spirit as before, and their refractory resistance was seriously influencing the health of the Governor.

The *Cape Frontier Times* of the 23rd of October says:—"The news from Cape Town received last night will produce feelings of the most painful excitement throughout the colony. The Governor is evidently labouring under a very dangerous excitement produced by severe indisposition, the possible results of which cannot be contemplated without serious alarm; or he is, unhappily, in the hands of evil councillors who are enemies to the public weal, and bent on disturbing the public peace of the colony."

At Cape Town the resistance was sustained with the greatest determination. On the evening of the 1st of November all male inhabitants between a certain age were invited to attend at the Town-hall, for the purpose of being enrolled as special constables.

The Anti-Convict Associations were carrying on their successful agitation. Violent addresses were being made to the rural population, in which the conduct of Sir H. Smith was denounced in the most unmeasured terms.

It was alleged that some persons connected even with the Anti-Convict Association had, when it suited pecuniary views, entered into trading operations with the Government authorities, although under a pledge not to contract or otherwise have business with them, and these allegations had brought about a recriminatory correspondence in the newspapers.

## WEST INDIES.

We have advices this week from Jamaica to the 22nd ult. The Legislature of the island continued in session, and its proceedings were of the same unsatisfactory character as at the date of the previous accounts. The House of Assembly had passed a series of resolutions, declaratory of the right of the house to direct, limit, and appropriate the public money, and defending the course lately pursued by the country party. These resolutions, upon being reported to the Council, had drawn forth from that body a series of counter resolutions.

The excitement upon the subject of retrenchment had in no way abated. The Council had unanimously rejected a bill contemplating a decrease in the salaries of the public officers, which had passed the Assembly. It was stated that the Government party was anxious to provoke another dissolution of the House of Assembly.

Notice of a motion for the imposition of an income tax in order to equalize the revenue with the expenditure of the island had been given by a member of the Government party. The proposition would, doubtless, be rejected.

The Hon. Mr. Stanley had arrived in Jamaica on his tour of inspection. There had been some disturbances in the parish of Manchester, and the Governor had sent a detachment of military to the district. Happily, nothing serious occurred, except a slight outbreak on the part of the black population, instigated by a famous "Oeah man."

The island was healthy. The dates from Havana are to the 27th ult. The Government regulations were becoming very strict at that place. The *Dee* mail steamer was not allowed to enter the harbour in the night. If three persons were found together in the streets after 11 at night, they were arrested. No European was allowed to carry arms.

Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, and all the Windward Islands, presented a very

misery. The great and healing measure by which the commerce of this country was freed from restrictions that impeded its expansion, and whose timely concession, there is every reason to believe, saved us from as violent a revolution as any that took place on the continent of Europe, weakened the force of the calamities that beset us, and enabled us to bear up under a weight of difficulty much greater than any that had ever before afflicted this country. Under its operation, trade began to mend, the losses of bad seasons were recovered, and the recoil of Continental difficulty stopped at our shores. The year 1850 opens under happier auspices. Confidence has been restored; and, although the voice of complaint from that large, important, and interesting part of the community, whose business is the cultivation of the land, is still raised, there can be no doubt that it will enjoy its due share of the prosperity which must follow past depression, and of which the signs and symptoms are everywhere visible around us. The Agricultural party maintained, in the heat of the Corn-law controversy, that the operation of Free-Trade would inevitably drain the Bank of England of its bullion—that foreign corn would be paid for, not in the manufactures of Yorkshire and Lancashire, but in gold—and that the country would, in consequence, be ruined. Experience has proved the assertion to be groundless. Under the operation of Free-Trade, the gold in the Bank of England amounted, on Saturday, the 22nd of December last, to the unprecedented sum of £16,991,261—larger by £352,261 than the largest accumulation of specie ever before known in the coffers of that establishment. Of course, those who are pledged to the correctness of the assertion they have so often hazarded, will endeavour to find some explanation of this circumstance more in accordance with their foregone conclusions, and will strive to twist the stubborn and unmanageable fact into the service of their theory. The fact, however, will remain a gratifying proof of the correctness of the principles on which the grand measure of Free-Trade was founded. The dangers of the approaching year seem to be, not the dangers of adversity, but of prosperity. We are at our appointed place in an old and perpetually recurring cycle, and have to beware of the greediness of gain far more than of depression and stagnation. "The history of what we are in the habit of calling the state of trade," says Mr. Jones Lloyd, "is an instructive lesson. We find it subject to various conditions which are perpetually recurring. It revolves, apparently, in an established cycle. First, we find it in a state of quiescence, next improvement, growing confidence, prosperity, excitement, overtrading, convulsion, pressure, stagnation, and distress, ending again in quiescence." We have at present reached the third of the stages so forcibly enumerated; the rest are all before us. The Bank is gorged with millions finding no profitable investment, or they would not be there; and all the dangers of cheap money will press upon us in due time. It is to be hoped that we shall be warned by the errors of the past, and that a mania for railways, for Californian acres, for Irish bogs, or any other bottomless gulf of speculation, will not bring us once again to the dark side of the circle, and throw us back to the point from which we started.

For individuals and for the country, for manufacturers, for commerce, and for agriculture—for all interests in the State—let us hope that the new year will be better than the old—that employment will increase, and pauperism diminish; and that 1850 will shine brightly in history, when compared with 1849.—In conclusion, we bear for each and all of our readers the cordial good-wishes of the season, and to each fire-side

## "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

## THE NEW YEAR IN PARIS.

HOWEVER Time may have thinned the calendar of its festal observances in France, it has spared the very pleasing custom of making New Year's Gifts, and thus propitiating the twelve months by kindly office at the very commencement of the year.

In England, it was an ancient custom at Court, at this season, both for the Sovereigns to receive and give New Year's gifts; and, six centuries ago, we find Henry III. extorting such gifts from the citizens of London. At Paris, for 240 years, the Festival of Fools was celebrated with outrageous absurdities. Its mummeries have, however, long since been swept away by the better intelligence of mankind.

Paris, we are glad to hear from our Artistic Correspondent, is very gay; the shops are as full as they have been at any period of the year; and the business season promises to be the best that the shopkeepers have had for these twenty years. The streets and boulevards, with their gay and luxurious taste, have rarely been so full; and the theatres are crowded nightly.

The purchase of New-Year's gifts brings out hosts of company. The *magasins*, or shops, are crowded every night with the *élite* of the fashionable world of Paris and London. Our Artist has pictured one of these *dépôts* of the products of Parisian industry and taste—in the Rue du Coq St. Honoré. The scene is one of fairy-like elegance: the costly assemblage of pictures, bronzes, and articles of *verre*, is marvellous; the display of ornamental furniture astonishes us with its elegant forms—borrowed, it is true, from other ages, but admirably meeting the imagined wants of our own; and the toy department, with its numberless ingenuities, attracts crowds of all growths. The whole scene forms a striking spectacle, when lit by gas in superb chandeliers.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY IN SOUTH AFRICA.**—The *South African Commercial Advertiser* of the 3rd November contains the following interesting information:—"Among the opening prospects of Africa—if Lord Grey's blight can be arrested—the grandest geographical discovery of modern times has just been announced—that, namely, of the Great Inland Lake so long supposed to exist, to the north of the Cape." The following extract of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Moffat to Mr. Rutherford, announcing this discovery, has been kindly given for general information:—"I embrace the few minutes which remain before sending a packet to Colesberg, to inform you of friend Oswald and companions. I shall give you the substance of a short letter received from the Lake, dated the 2nd of August. It only came last night, and has afforded us real pleasure, as it will doubtless do to yourself. Mr. L. calls the lake Noka ca Nama, or Ngama. We reached this a day or two ago, after a journey of about 556 miles from Kolobeng, and feel thankful that our path has been one of safety and pleasure. We are now at the Batawana town, and yesterday rode down about six miles to look on the broad blue waters of the lake. We cannot tell how broad it may be, for we could not see a horizon, except one of water, on the south and west. We traversed through much desert country, and were looking for the lake for 200 miles before we came to it. We traversed about 200 miles along the banks of a large river which runs S.S.E., a beautiful stream, in some parts very like the Clyde, but frequently broader. The water was rising, and seems to come from the north, from melted snows—it is so clear and soft. Two large rivers run into the lake, both from the north. The Batawana are a numerous tribe—the chief a youth. Many Makoba or Bayeyie fish and float on the river; darker in complexion than Bechuana, and speak a language which has a slight click. Canoes hollowed out of one tree, very fine scenery on the banks of the river; splendid trees, mostly new to me—one, the fruit like a small, yellow pumpkin, about three inches in diameter. Mr. Oswald and I go on horseback to-morrow. The waggon goes on with Mr. Murray. We follow on the track when we have seen Sebetoane's tribe. The Bayeyie are numerous, but villages all small. Last observation of sun gave about 19 degs. 7 mins. We are N.N.W. of Kolobeng, but we expect when at Sebetoane's to be considerably farther north. I may add to the above, by way of explanation, that the Batawana tribe are Bechuana, and originally of the Bamanuato tribe, which lie eight days' journey north of the Bakuana, among whom Mr. Livingstone has his station (Kolobeng). The tribe of Sebetoane (the chief's name) are also Bechuana; the Makoba (which means slaves) are a different race. They possess no cattle, but live on fish. Bayeyie seems to mean eaters. Mr. L. says that he expected they would reach Kolobeng in two months. I am sending direct to Colesberg, in order to forward a letter from Mr. Murray to Mrs. Murray, care of Messrs. Dixon and Co., as he expects Mrs. M. to be out at Cape in November or December. The party were very friendly received at the lake. Mr. L. says the canoes are poor things—very numerous—they go pretty quickly in them, and cook and sleep too in them (the Makoba). They had it very cold all the way. Country neighbourhood of the lake beautiful and fertile. All peace in that part of the world."

**PERUVIAN POTATOES.**—At a council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, lately held in Hapover-square, Mr. H. Manning communicated the following result of his cultivation of potatoes from South American seeds:—"The Peruvian potato seed was set in ordinary garden-ground at Shacklwell in 1848, and in due course showed fair stems and leaf; but, on opening the ground last autumn, the result was found to be only a few bubs, about the size of very small marbles, which, consequently, were disregarded. This year, however, from the seed left accidentally in the ground, there sprang up several vigorous stems, some of which had leaves of extraordinary size; the plants flowered in a variety of colours. The yield from these, considering the small set, was large, and the size of tubers considerably increased."



favourable appearance. At Antigua the yellow fever was racing amongst the troops; Deputy Commissary General Price had been carried off by it. The advices from Hayti state that his able Majesty the Emperor Faustin, as the war had been renewed with the Republic of St. Domingo, was, on the 15th of November, to march to the frontier with his entire army. The Haytian fleet had sailed with probably the same destination. The License Tax for foreign merchants had been raised from 900 to 1800 dollars Spanish, and for clerks had been made 1000 dollars. Nearly eighty houses were destroyed by fire at Port-au-Prince on the 16th ult.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE CHRISTMAS RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

Christmas-Day brought with it an extraordinary amount of railway traffic, teeming in and out of the chief metropolitan termini. On that festive day the Euston Station of the London and North-Western Railway was the scene of incessant occupation. Arrangements were made by Captain Hulish, the general manager, and Mr. Brooks, the traffic superintendent, in connexion with the delivery agents, Messrs. Chaplin and Horne, whereby the greatest expedition in delivery was obtained; and as the means by which it was accomplished are not generally known, it may be interesting to describe the arrangements adopted, so that no one consignment of the immense mass was allowed, if possible, to be lost or miscarry. On the arrival side of the station was a large temporary tent, supplied with half a dozen fires, its dimensions 20 feet high by 60 wide, being lit up with gas laid on for the purpose, and into which, as the various mail and merchandise trains hove up alongside, their contents were taken out and temporarily stowed. Here, during the morning, and indeed since Saturday, between fifty and sixty of the railway porters were engaged day and night hauling the hampers, &c. out of the goods vans, and handing them across the rails to a number of men employed by the company's carrying agents in the tents, who, with the "sorters," arranged them into their particular compartments in front of the station-wall, on which were written the different districts or destinations, separate compartments being assigned for "the City," "Strand," "the Squares," "Over the Water," "Islington," "East End," "Finsbury," "West End," "Kingsland," "Clerkenwell," &c., at each of which points between two and three omnibuses and vans stood in the process of being loaded. The various consignments were checked by the company's clerks at their desks; and this having been done, as soon as filled, the 30 or 40 conveyances drove off without delay with their deliveries, consisting of barrels of oysters and baskets of fish, fruit, game, and other Christmas presents. The immense contents of the mail and other trains arriving on Monday and Tuesday at half-past four A.M., were disposed of in this manner by ten o'clock, at which time the station was cleared. On Sunday morning the men remained at work, and the conveyance vans were in all parts of the town by nine. Policemen were about to prevent pilfering. On the departure side of the station extra clerks and porters were employed day and night with the transmissions, by the trains, to the various manufacturing towns; and it is calculated that the number of packages and consignments of all descriptions going "down" the line could not for the four days have amounted to less than twenty thousand, and those coming in, to less than fifteen thousand. There were also several hundred waggons of live and dead stock; and a great influx of passengers to and fro was occasioned, the company having issued double-journey tickets, available from Saturday to Wednesday.

On the Great Western, Eastern Counties, and South-Western, the same expeditious system of delivery was adopted, the carrying agents being the same. The number of consignments over the Great Western, during the four days, is computed at 18,000 "down," and some 8000 "up." On Saturday the trains on this line are said to have been "tremendous," with people going in and out of town—the luggage such as had never been seen before. Extra carriages had to be put on to the express and ordinary trains, the arrangements of which were under the superintendence of Mr. Seymour Clarke, the manager, and Mr. Palmer, the traffic superintendent.

On the Eastern Counties' an immense tent was constructed for the purpose, the arrangements and staff, under Mr. Snow, being of a similar description with those at Euston-square, with this addition, that on the arrival side of the line the shoals of packages were backed out of the trains into the tents by means of a huge sliding platform; while upon the "down" side was a sort of dock, into which the railway carriages were run, and conveniently loaded on the line with their cargoes. The consignments by this line, taking in, as it does, the great game and agricultural districts, more particularly in live and dead stock, during the preceding week, were enormous.

The South-Western, South-Eastern, and Brighton each had their proportionate amount of traffic, more particularly in passengers, owing to the facilities given for extending the return journey to Wednesday, which was the case on many of the provincial railways.

ROYAL CHARITIES.—Her Majesty's Royal charities, to above 700 aged and infirm poor, were distributed on Monday, at the Almonry, Whitehall, by the Lord High Almoner (the Bishop of Oxford), the Sub-Almoner, and the yeoman of the Almonry. Each indigent person received 5s. The Royal Gate-wards were at the same time awarded to above 150 poor persons, many of whom are blind and suffer under bodily affliction.—The annual distribution of the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert's bounties to the aged poor and needy families of the Royal borough of Windsor, will take place at the Royal Mews, on Monday next (New Year's eve). Blankets, as well as a bountiful supply of excellent provisions and coals, will be given away to a large number of the poor resident in that locality.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—The Lord Mayor provided a handsome dinner of old English fare, together with turkeys, geese, and all the luxuries of this festive season, for his numerous domestics, with their wives, families, and friends, on Christmas-day. Upwards of seventy partook of his Lordship's hospitality in one of the banqueting-halls, where there was an unlimited supply of ale and wine.

ROYAL BOUNTY AT KEW.—A donation of £50 from his Majesty the King of Hanover, towards the relief of the destitute and deserving poor of this hamlet, was judiciously and impartially distributed on Monday, in beef, bread, and beer, by Lieutenant-Colonel Girardot and Mr. Costelow, the two church-wardens, and Mr. Cartwright, one of the overseers. The whole of the boys in the Queen's Free School appeared on their way to church on Christmas Day in a new suit of clothes, with new caps, given by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge; and the girls were dressed, at the same time, thanks to the liberality of the Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (previous to their leaving Kew for the Continent) sent ten sovereigns to the vicar, to be by him distributed among the necessitous poor of the place.

CHRISTMAS AT THE PUBLIC OFFICES.—Tuesday, being Christmas Day, was, as usual, observed as a strict holiday at the several offices of Government, the public establishments, and also at the several docks and places on the river side devoted to the shipping and import trade of the port of London. The only exception to the general rule was the Post-office. The metropolitan district receipt and delivery of letters took place up till noon, after which there were no deliveries. The receipt and delivery of the morning mails from the country, and the despatch of letters, &c., from London in the evening, was, however, effected in the usual manner.

CHRISTMAS FARE AT THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, GRAY'S INN-ROAD.—The convalescent patients in this excellent institution were regaled on Tuesday with roast beef, plum pudding, and porter, by order of the weekly board.

CHRISTMAS-DAY IN THE WORKHOUSES.—DIMINUTION OF PAUPERISM.—On Tuesday, according to annual custom, the pauper inmates of the metropolitan workhouses were provided by the respective parochial authorities with a substantial dinner, consisting of beef, potatoes, plum-pudding, and beer, and accompanied in several instances by an extra allowance of tea, tobacco, snuff, &c. The following statement exhibits the number of inmates in the principal workhouses on Christmas-Day, 1849 and 1848:—

WORKHOUSE.	1849.		1848.	
	Inmates.	Outdoor.	Inmates.	Outdoor.
St. Pancras .. .. .	1360	7054	1462	7283
Marylebone .. .. .	1989	6500	2222	7280
Martin's-in-the-Fields ..	650	600	660	575
City of London Union ..	900	3000	1132	3378
Strand Union .. .. .	644	1529	611	1768
St. Mary, Islington .. .	420	No Return	485	No Return
St. Luke, Chelsea .. .	515	2723	541	3196
Stepney Union .. .. .	1209	3869	1314	3650
St. Leonard's, Shoreditch ..	787	..	870	..
St. James, Clerkenwell ..	450	2035	537	1365
St. Olave's, Southwark ..	354	No Return	No Return	No Return
St. Mary's, Lambeth .. .	1028	..	1035	..
St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey ..	630	..	684	..
Poplar Union .. .. .	574	2253	631	2613
Whitechapel .. .. .	1013	2253	647	2613
Edmonton .. .. .	410	..	428	..
St. Mary, Newington .. .	364	1792	348	2052
Holborn .. .. .	708	..	918	..
Wandsworth .. .. .	487	..	551	..
Kensington .. .. .	313	1481	267	900
West London .. .. .	495	..	450	..
St. James's, Westminster ..	700	700	713	724
St. George's-in-the-East ..	900	..	947	..

It was not possible to obtain returns from some of the parishes, but the foregoing proves the satisfactory circumstance that there is a vast decrease in pauperism, with about two exceptions, in every parish in the metropolis, amounting in the aggregate to about 5000. It also appears that there are from 80,000 to 100,000 in the Metropolis who are dependent on parochial bounty for their Christmas-Day dinner. It must be remarked that the number of persons in the workhouses on Christmas-Day must not be taken as a criterion of the number usually therein, the inclemency of the weather and the certainty of a Christmas dinner being a strong incentive to persons to claim parochial relief.

THE POOR IN THE CITY.—In the course of Monday the officers of the different wards in the City were busily employed in distributing the Christmas alms to the poor residing within their respective limits. The relief was dispensed in money and coals, and in some instances bread. In addition to this seasonable aid the clergymen of many of the parishes, through the benevolence of their congregations, were enabled to relieve a number of poor distressed

objects. Most of the civic companies also contributed a large amount of Christmas fare, which was liberally distributed amongst the poor recipients. During Saturday and Monday several hundred relief tickets for five shillings, in accordance with the vote of the Court of Common Council, were distributed amongst the widows and distressed relatives of deceased freemen. The Aldermen and members of the Common Council have the privilege of bestowing this charity. The tickets, on being presented at the Chamberlain's Office, entitled the holders to five shillings in money. The usual Christmas fare was liberally apportioned to the inmates of the City workhouses. In Newgate, Giltspur-street Bridewell, Borough Compter, Coldbath-fields, and the other metropolitan prisons, the unfortunate occupants were allowed a substantial meal of roast beef, potatoes, and plum-pudding, each adult being served with a pint of porter.

CHRISTMAS-DAY AT THE LEICESTER-SQUARE SOUP KITCHEN.—The committee provided soup and bread, and beef and plum-pudding, for 1145 destitute persons, many of whom were widows with large families, whose husbands had fallen victims to the late prevailing epidemic.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.—The children—now upwards of 200—of this school were regaled, as usual, on Christmas-Day, with roast beef and plum-pudding, after which they were liberally supplied with oranges. A large number of the governors visited the institution during the day.

RAINE'S CHARITIES.—On Wednesday, the annual general meeting of the trustees and friends of this institution was held in the board-room of the asylum, St. George's-in-the-East, Middlesex; Mr. M. J. Rippingham in the chair. There was a large attendance of ladies present. The treasurer, Mr. Richardson, laid before the meeting the objects of the charity.—The schools were originally built by Mr. Henry Raine, a large brewer, in 1719, for the purpose of clothing and educating 50 boys and 50 girls, and for the entire maintenance, clothing, and education of 40 girls, and giving to each a marriage portion of one hundred pounds. The children, who must be the offspring of parishioners of St. George's-in-the-East, enter the schools at the age of—males, nine years, and females, eight—in which the latter remain until such time as they are elected into the asylum, when they become candidates for the hundred pounds marriage portion. In the asylum they remain for four years, during the last of which they are instructed in the duties of domestic servants; they then go out to service, and, at the age of 22, are entitled, on production of satisfactory testimonials from their employers, to draw lots for the prize. During their term in the schools and asylum they are educated in the principles of the Church of England, which they must still retain to enable them to be eligible as candidates for the marriage portion. Mr. Richardson concluded by expressing a feeling of deep regret that so valuable a charity should be circumscribed in its operations, and compelled to appeal annually for donations to carry out the benevolent intentions of the founder, who, had he lived but a few years longer, would have made any such appeal unnecessary. The deficiency, which arises from the endowment having consisted partly of leasehold property, of which the leases have expired, amounts to nearly £200. A formal report for the past year having been agreed upon, the ceremony of drawing the marriage portion was proceeded with. All the girls of the establishment were seated around the table on which the ballot-boxes were placed, and those who were to draw took their seats at the head, while those who had drawn and received the prize faced them at the bottom of the table. The number of candidates on the present occasion were six, and the fortunate one will be married to a person, who must be a member of the Church of England, and approved of by the trustees, on the 1st of May next. The others continue to draw till also successful.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The number of visitors to this national institution on Wednesday was 19,986, being an increase, as compared with Boxing-day last year, of 7111, when the number was 12,785. Sixteen constables of the A division of police, under the directions of Sergeant Neale, were in attendance; and, although the increase of visitors was so much beyond the usual average, the greatest order and decorum was observed throughout the day.

AMALGAMATION OF PROTECTIONIST SOCIETIES.—The committees of the society in Bond-street, and of the National Society for Protection to British Capital and Industry, met on Monday, and made final arrangements for combining and giving full effect to the energies of the two bodies, by consolidating them in one grand united confederation, under the title of "The National Association for the Protection of Industry and Capital throughout the British Empire."

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S SOCIETY.—On Monday, a quarterly general court of the Governors of this charitable corporation was held at the Society's offices, Brixton-lane, Cornhill; Mr. George Lindsay in the chair. The applications of upwards of fifty claimants for relief were considered, and succour ordered to be granted. It was announced that during the past year about 1400 applications have been before the committee, temporary relief for a permanent pension having been allowed in each case.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of commercial travellers was held at the London Tavern, on Thursday, when it was resolved to establish an institution under the above title, to assist commercial travellers of ten years' or more standing in their old age; and a committee was appointed to lay down the necessary rules for carrying out the proposed object. Already about six hundred commercial travellers have expressed their willingness to join the institution.

THE NAVAL PRISONERS IN THE QUEEN'S BENCH.—Lieutenant Graham and Mr. Elliott, who, it will be recollected, were found guilty on their own confession of deserting from the *Children*, and who immediately thereupon proved, after a lengthened investigation, the conduct of their commander to be tyrannical and unbearable—these gentlemen, after having been brought from Exeter Gaol to the Queen's Prison, and placed by the governor in the best ward of the prison, where they could have the companionship of the most respectable inmates, and enjoy a sufficient space for exercise and recreation, were on Thursday last, under the orders of the Secretary of State of the Home Department, placed in the misdemeanants' ward, where companionship, space for exercise, and every comfort which they have hitherto been permitted to enjoy, are forcibly taken from them. Prior to their removal, they addressed a protest to the governor of the prison, and a letter to the Secretary to the Admiralty on the subject, to neither of which has an answer been returned.

CASE OF MR. DYCE SOMBRE.—It is rumoured in the Court of Chancery, that this singular case is likely to be again made the subject of inquiry. It is stated, upon good authority, that the Lord Chancellor will propose that Dr. Seymour, Mr. Lawrence, and Dr. Forbes Winslow be appointed, in conjunction with one of his own physicians, either Dr. Bright or Dr. Southey, to consider the matter in all its details, and report accordingly. Prior to the former inquiry, Mr. Dyce Sombre himself selected Dr. Winslow, Mr. Lawrence, and Dr. Seymour as his judges, and expressed himself willing to abide by their decision; but these gentlemen declined entertaining the question without the knowledge and consent of the Lord Chancellor (the legal guardian of Mr. Dyce Sombre), and having access to the important documents in possession of the Court of Chancery. Mr. Dyce Sombre then appointed four other gentlemen, who saw Mr. D. Sombre and made a report in his favour. The matter came before the Court of Chancery, and the petition was dismissed. Mr. Dyce Sombre complains of his anomalous position. He is found lunatic by inquisition, and is therefore supposed to be incapable of taking care of himself and property. Notwithstanding this he is under no kind of surveillance, has at command nearly £12,000 per annum, and is permitted to leave the country, and reside on the Continent. If he be a lunatic, it is said, why is this liberty allowed? Either his person ought to be under control, or he is fit to be at large, and have the management of his own affairs. He is the only lunatic connected with the Court of Chancery placed in this peculiar and anomalous position. It is understood that Mr. Dyce Sombre has strongly expressed his readiness to abide by the medical opinion of Dr. Seymour, Mr. Lawrence, and Dr. Winslow.

CALIGRAPHY.—A very curious specimen of this art has been recently produced, after eighteen months' labour, by a Mr. John Peckerd, of No. 3, Church-passage, Basinghall-street. It consists of devices and emblems most elaborately drawn with pen and ink, and accompanied by legends and written descriptions in a great variety of handwritings, describing the prosperity of England, the horrors of war, the blessings of peace, and the goodness of Providence. The diversity of designs introduced is astonishing, amounting to nearly 15,000. Every letter is unique, and every embellishment entirely *sui generis*. The drawings are in good taste, the larger letters extremely bold and well formed, and the minute writing almost microscopic, yet clearly legible. The labour of the artist must have been intense, and it is to be hoped the result of his efforts and diligence will be properly estimated by those best qualified to patronise such skill.

FIRE AT ROLLS CHAMBERS.—On Saturday night, about half-past eight o'clock, a fire, which caused considerable damage, although of short duration, broke out in the premises termed Rolls Chambers, situate at 80, Chancery-lane. The premises, which had a frontage in Chancery-lane (the ground floor being occupied as the Patent Journal Office), extended backwards upwards of 150 feet into Chancery-court; and from the fact of the houses in Carey-street, and numerous other buildings abutting upon the one on fire, a fearful conflagration was expected. With the exception of the front shop before alluded to, the whole of the upper floors were occupied by gentlemen connected with the law, as chambers, and although most of the apartments have escaped the action of the fire, the water thrown by the engines into the flames has penetrated every room, and done, apparently, an incalculable amount of mischief. Before the firemen arrived the flames had broken through the windows of that part of the premises in Chancery-court, and had extended into the apartments in Chancery-lane. Plenty of water having been soon obtained, the engines were set to work, the hose being conveyed up the staircases of the premises on fire, and also up Chancery-court, and by that means the firemen were enabled to encompass the flames at every point; and before half-past nine o'clock, less than one hour from the time the outbreak commenced, the conflagration was entirely subdued. The damage done by fire is confined to the destruction of several chambers in the upper part of the building, and the lower floors are severely damaged by water. As to the origin of the fire nothing that can be depended upon could be learned, neither could it be ascertained whether the premises were insured or not.

THE LATE BERMONDSEY MURDER.—The Secretary of State has allowed the following rewards to the parties employed in the detection and conviction of Mr. and Mrs. Manning, the perpetrators of the murder of Mr. Patrick O'Connor.—Inspector Field, £15; Sergeants Langley, Witcher, and Thornton, £10 each; Shaw, Kendal, and Smith, £8 each; Andrews, £5; Constables Barnes, £10; Barton, £8; and Lockyer, £5.

STATISTICS OF CHOLERA IN THE METROPOLIS.—The most important particulars registered of each case of cholera were published, week by week, in the tables, as this not only assisted the various officers engaged in preventing and treating the disease, but put the facts within the reach of all those who were studying the nature and causes of the epidemic. Data were thus published which will show the influence of sex, age, season, locality, water, drainage, occupation, wealth or poverty. It is gratifying to find that, in addition to the

analyses which have been already drawn up at the General Register Office others have been undertaken by private inquirers; and Dr. Guy has favoured the Registrar-General with the following account of the professions or occupations of 4312 men of the age of 15 and upwards who were destroyed by cholera. It will be seen that the disease, in London, was not only fatal to the poor, but to many artisans, tradesmen, shopkeepers, professional people, and persons of independent means. Of the men who died of cholera, 135 were returned simply as gentlemen or of independent means, 6 were clergymen or ministers of religion, 16 medical men, 13 magistrates or lawyers, 11 architects or engineers, 11 merchants, 11 officers in the army and navy, 23 master mariners, 100 clerks or accountants, 11 Custom-house, 7 Excise officers, 14 builders, 14 booksellers, &c., 14 carpenters, undertakers, &c., 13 cheesemongers, 17 drapers, &c., 11 fishmongers, 12 fruiterers, 20 grocers, 52 were bakers, 32 butchers, 102 weavers, 80 tailors, 151 shoemakers, 47 bricklayers, 17 masons, 20 plasterers, 102 cabinetmakers, 111 carpenters, 28 coopers, 73 painters and plumbers, 33 sawyers, 20 shipwrights, 22 tanners, 18 turners, 16 coachmakers, 35 cabmen, 57 coachmen and cabmen, 15 saddlers, 52 carmen and carriers, 37 groom and ostlers, 6 drovers, 44 engineers, 10 railway guards, 13 stokers, 16 letter-carriers and postmen, 99 porters or messengers, 24 policemen, 7 watchmen, 62 soldiers, 295 sailors and Greenwich pensioners, 27 watermen, 18 bargemen, 7 ballast heavers, 53 coal-porters and coal-heavers, 25 footmen and man-servants; 756 labourers are returned. Dr. Guy has given in the table "a rough approximation to the ratio which the deaths bear to the living" in the several occupations. This determination is as difficult as it is interesting. The occupations were only returned for the metropolis in a very general way by the Census Commissioners in 1841, and in which the trades masters were not distinguished from men. The results which deserve most attention are those which relate to well-defined, numerous occupations. "Labourer," "Gentleman," "Man-servant," are terms very loosely employed; but the statement that 1 in 67 labourers, 1 in 200 gentlemen, and 1 in 1572 man-servants, including footmen, died of cholera, expresses something near the risk incurred by the three classes in the epidemic. The domestic man-servants of London were 39,300 in 1841, and 25 died of cholera; the clergy, doctors, and lawyers did not exceed 12,000, yet 35 persons belonging to the learned professions died of cholera in 1849. In the weekly returns, from which the statement is drawn up, the professions were not uniformly given; but the abstract will be made more complete afterwards from the register-books.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—In the metropolitan districts the deaths registered in the week ending last Saturday were 1043; the weekly average of the last quarter of five previous years, corrected for increase of population, is 1162. In the corresponding week of the year 1846, 1276 deaths were returned; in that of 1847, 1946 deaths, when the mortality was increased by influenza; and in the same week of 1848, the deaths were 1118. But though still considerably less than usual, the weekly contingent now shows a tendency to rise to the winter rate of mortality; and the present return shows an increase of 41 on the deaths of the previous week. In three successive weeks, ending Dec. 15, the deaths from bronchitis were respectively 60, 86, 89; last week they rose to 110, whilst the average is only 68; from asthma there were 21, 16, 26, and 19 in the last four weeks; and from pneumonia (or inflammation of the lungs), 94, 88, 90, and 81. The mortality from pneumonia, which is less than the average, occurs to a much greater extent among children than aged persons; and the latter class are now the principal sufferers from the increased coldness of the weather. Three men and five women died last week at 90 and upwards; two of the women had turned 95 years. From diarrhoea and dysentery the deaths were 19; a woman of 70 died on the 16th December, in Great Fintona-street, from debility, which succeeded an attack of cholera. All epidemics are less fatal than usual, except measles, which rather exceeds the average. The births during the week were 1315.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.—The mean daily reading of the barometer at Greenwich Observatory was above 30 inches on the last three days of the week; the mean of the week was 29.952. The daily mean temperature, which was 51° on Sunday, gradually fell to 33° on Friday and Saturday; the mean of the week was 42°—rather more than the average of the same week in seven years. The daily mean was about 10° above the average on Sunday and Tuesday, and 6° below it on Friday.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

SIR THOMAS GIBSON CARMICHAEL, BART.

SIR THOMAS GIBSON CARMICHAEL, of Skirling, in the county of Peebles, succeeded his brother, Sir John Gibson Carmichael, as tenth Baronet. Sir Thomas married, first, Janet Matland, daughter of the late Major-General Dundas, of Fingask; and, secondly, on the 8th June, 1816, the Hon. Anne Napier, daughter of Francis seventh Lord Napier. He leaves issue, besides three daughters, a son, Alexander, born in 1820, now the eleventh Baronet. Sir Thomas died at Naples, on the 13th inst.

The family of Sir Gibson Carmichael is of distinguished and honourable descent. The first Baronet, Sir Alexander Gibson, whose patent of creation dates as far back as 1628, was an eminent lawyer, and Lord President of the Court of Session, in the reign of James I. The surname of Carmichael was assumed by the ninth Baronet, in consequence of his marriage with Helen Carmichael, granddaughter of the first Earl of Hyndford.

JOHN LORD COLVILLE, OF CULROSS, ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE.

This nobleman, whose death has just occurred, at the advanced age of eighty-one, entered the Royal Navy very early in life, and thus included in his naval career a very brilliant epoch of his country's maritime glory. In 1781, he served as midshipman in the *Conqueror* at Rodney's great victory over Count de Grasse; in 1793, he obtained his Lieutenancy; in 1794, assisted, as first Lieutenant of the *Santa Margherita*, at the capture of the French West India Islands; in 1795, took a privateer, *Le Coup d'Essai*; and in 1796 was promoted to post rank. Passing over a few years, we find the gallant officer commanding the *Hercule*, 74, in the expedition against Copenhagen, in 1807, and accompanying home from Lisbon the surrendered Russian fleet, in 1808. In 1819 he became rear-admiral, and was commander-in-chief at the Cork station from 1821 to 1825 Lord Colville, of Culross, succeeded to his family honours at the decease of his father, John, ninth Baron, in 1811. He married, 14th October, 1790, Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Ford, Esq., and had by her, who died in 1839, an only child, Amelia, who died young. His Lordship married, secondly, 15th October, 1841, the Hon. Anne Law, fourth daughter of Edward, first Lord Ellenborough, but by her had no child. As he thus dies without issue, the title and estates devolve on his nephew, Charles John, now Lord Colville, of Culross, who is son of the late gallant and highly distinguished General Sir Charles Colville, G.C.B.

BISHOP COLERIDGE.

The Right Rev. William Hart Coleridge, D.D., late Bishop of Barbadoes, was the only son of Luke Herman Coleridge, Esq., of Thoverton, Devonshire. He was born in 1789, and received his earlier education at the King's Grammar School, St. Mary, Devon; he after that went to Oxford, and was successively student and tutor of Christchurch. His appointments in the Church during the course of his good and useful life, were the perpetual Curacy of Cowley, Oxon; the Curacy and Lectureship of St. Andrew's, Holborn; the Preachership of the National Society's Chapel, in Ely-place; and lastly, in 1824, the Bishopric of Barbadoes. This Bishopric he resigned in 1842, when a subdivision was made of the diocese. The Right Rev. Prelate was also Warden of St. Augustin's College, Canterbury. He married, in 1825, the eldest daughter of the Very Rev. Thomas Kennell, D.D. (Dean of Winchester, and Master of the Temple), and granddaughter of the celebrated Sir William Blackstone. Bishop Coleridge, who was much respected and beloved, died suddenly of disease of the heart, on the 21st inst., at his seat, Salston, Ottery St. Mary, Devon. He was in the 61st year of his age.

ARCHDEACON JENNINGS.

The Venerable Philip Jennings, D.D., Archdeacon of Norfolk, was for many years Assistant Minister of St. James' Chapel, Westmoreland-street, Marylebone, and he succeeded to the incumbency of that place a few weeks ago, on the death of the Rev. Thomas White, M.A. Dr. Jennings was made an Archdeacon in 1847, by the late Bishop of Norwich, Dr. Stanley. The recent demise of Archdeacon Jennings causes deep regret amongst the clergy of the diocese of Norwich.

REV. DR. RUDGE.—The report of the decease of this gentleman (which has appeared in several papers, though not in our Journal), who for many years was so well known in London as the clergyman of Limehouse, and the Sunday evening Preacher of St. Sepulchre's, is happily incorrect. It is, however, true that he has had a paralytic stroke, and has been seriously unwell; but his numerous friends will be glad to learn that he has nearly recovered from this severe attack, and is on the point of resuming the duties of the parish of which he is the Rector.

A MODEL CITY.—The city of Utica, New York, does not owe a single cent of public debt, and has money in bank, besides taxes due and collectable. It has an abundant supply of water brought into the houses of the citizens, fresh from the mountain springs. It is lighted by gas of pure and excellent quality; has the best appointed and most effective fire department of any city of its size in America, and is the only city in the state which wholly escaped the ravages of the cholera last summer.





SCENE FROM THE PANTOMIME OF "HARLEQUIN AND GOOD QUEEN BESS," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIMES AND EXTRAVAGANZAS.

DRURY-LANE.

The most important event of boxing-night was the re-opening of this theatre, under the management of Mr. James Anderson; and the public, evidently entertaining this view, crowded to it in extraordinary numbers. Much confusion was the consequence of the inconvenience accordingly felt; and the lessee had to address his audience four times in the course of the evening—now expressing his gratification, now exhibiting his anger, now threatening the gallery with a rise of prices, and finally winding up (after the fall of the curtain) with a speech in a better temper. The play was the "Merchant of Venice," *Shylock* being performed by the manager, who naturally wished to be heard in his first essay in such a character before a London audience. Miss Laura Addison was *Portia*; Miss Clara Tellett, *Nerissa*; and Miss Huddart, *Jessica*.

The pantomime, attractively entitled "Harlequin and good Queen Bess," introduced to the Christmas audience at this theatre the Messrs. Deulin as *Harlequin* and *Pantaloön*, and Mr. C. Stilt as *Clown*. The introduction travesties the story of Amy Robsart and the Earl of Leicester; wherein Queen Elizabeth is absurdly caricatured in costume and person by Mr. R. Romer. The inventor of pantomimes is also called into the field, the *Spirit of John Rich* (Mr. Darcie), who contends with the *Spirit of High Tragedy* (Mr. J. Parry), and succeeds in redeeming *Amy* and the *Earl* from a tragic fate, converting them into *Harlequin* and *Columbine*. The latter was elegantly personated by Mdlle. Théodore. The tricks of the pantomime contain some good hits, those at the Smithfield nuisance and the Peace Society being the most palpable. It concludes with a diorama, presenting the Queen's visit to Ireland. Though exceedingly long, the whole went off with spirit; and it may be justly conceded that Mr. Anderson has commenced his experiment with a fair amount of encouragement, and that the public are ready to believe that it is the lessee's intention to deserve success. At any rate, they gave him on this occasion, what he properly acknowledged as a "noble house-warming."

The scene engraved is Queen Elizabeth's interview with her several lovers, in the gardens of Kenilworth.

PRINCESS'S.

After the opera of "Don Giovanni," a new and very eccentric pantomime, by Mr. G. H. Rodwell, entitled "King Jamie; or, Harlequin and the Magic Fiddle," was produced. Here, in the Hall of Evil Spirits, we are introduced to *Alcohol* (Mr. Stacey), exiled by *Father Mathew* and the *Water Cure*, who conspires against the peace of *King James* (Mr. Honey), ending his many plots with the Gunpowder Plot. *Guy Faux* and his party are frightened away by *Old Seymour*, the Scotch blind fiddler, who escapes with his Royal companion. The opening of Parliament then succeeds; the fun consisting in representing the statesmen of the present day in grotesque masks. The audience were uproarious in applause. After a few more palpable hits of a similar kind, the changes occur—*Harlequin*, Mr. Bologna; *Columbine*, Miss Fawcett; *Pantaloön*, Mr. Paulo; *Clown*, Mr. Flexmore. In addition to these are *Sprites*, by Messrs. Le Bar and Wright. The rapidity and bustle of this pantomime are unrivalled, and many of the tricks are admirable. The scenery well merits high commendation; while the acting (for it deserves no lower word) of Mr. Flexmore was of rare excellence. The house, we regret to add, was over noisy; particularly that portion of it which, in its thunder, as well as its elevation, represents Olympus.

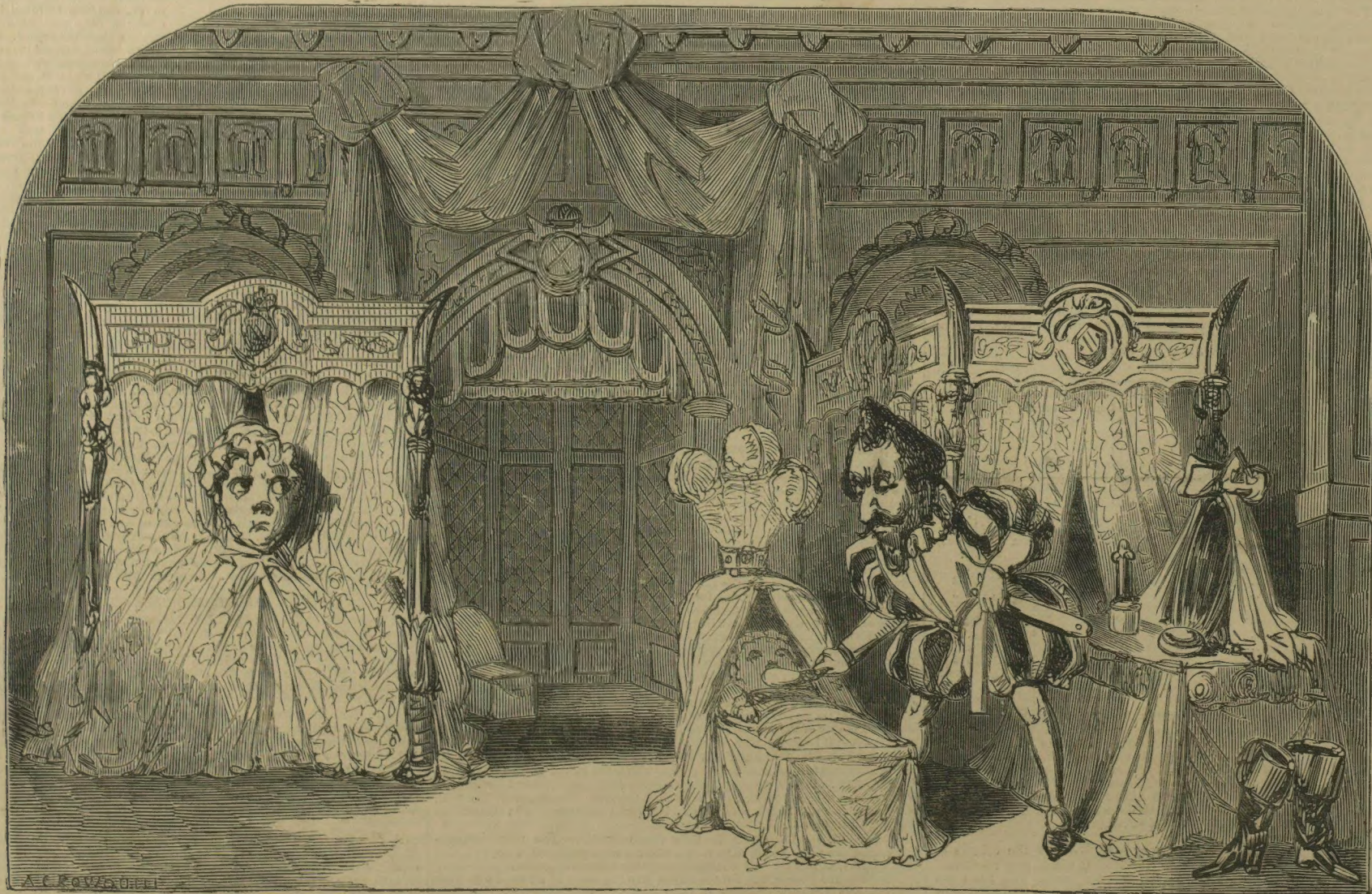
The scene engraved is the Royal bedroom, with the refractory Royal *Babie Charles* very unruly in his cradle.

OLYMPIC.

This theatre, newly built and decorated, commences the season in gallant style. Mrs. Mowatt opened the house with an appropriate address, which was admirably delivered; after which, the National Anthem was sung; and then "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" acted. The selection of this play may be accepted as an example of the elegant taste which is likely to preside over this management. Mr. Davenport made an excellent *Valentine*; *Proteus* was by Mr. Ryder; and Miss F. Vining appeared as *Julia*.

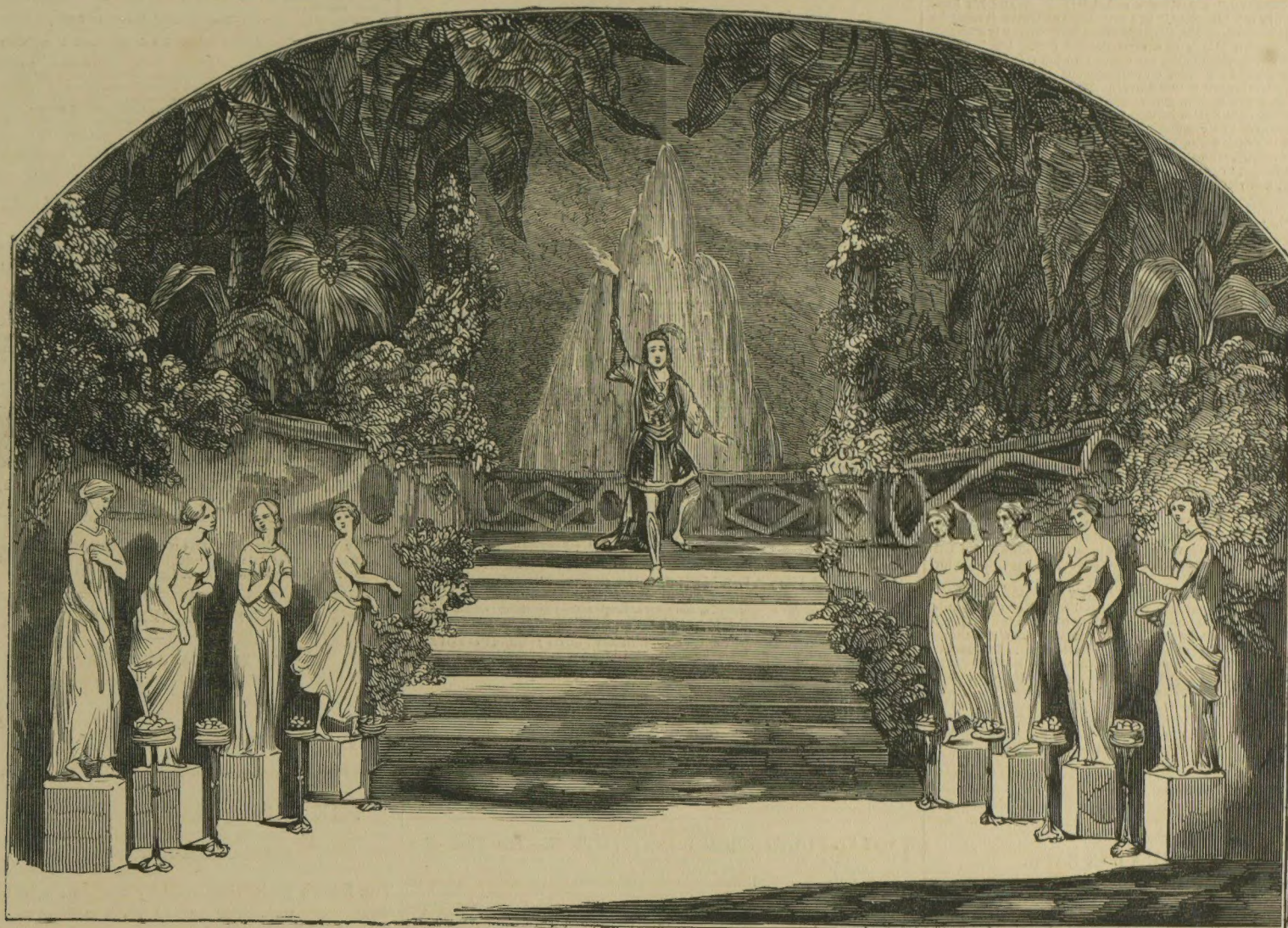
Then came the Pantomime, "Laugh and Grow Fat; or, Harlequin Nutcracker"—a highly whimsical *mélange*, contrived by Mr. Nelson Lee, in which the fun begins even before the piece—a special drop-curtain having been provided for the occasion, pictured over with "Nuts to Crack" in abundance. The halls of *Merry Christmas* and *Good Cheer* are visited by *Old Time*, who is told that *Nutcracker*, stoker to the engine of *Fun*, is engaged for the festive season, charged with instructions to upset *King Humbug*, and secure *Content*; for which purpose he is provided with a provisional army, and a kitchen corps. The palace of *Humbug* is visited, where the sprite *Gammon* counsels the bloated Monarch on the means of obtaining the hand of the *Princess Content*, the daughter of *King Nonsense*. A council is next held in the Pearl Palace of the *Water Nalads* by the Fairy Queen *Sincerity*, touching a project for aiding *Christmas* and assisting young *Merit*, too long hidden under a shade, by sending to earth the fairy *Joy* with a golden pencil. *Nutcracker* immediately afterwards appearing, affords sport to the *Elphin Monarch*. A change from sunlight to moonlight is here accomplished in the scene—an original effect, due to Mr. Dayes, the principal artist; and the march of *Nutcracker* is impeded by the darkness, who, with his army, falls asleep; whereupon they are annoyed by a host of wandering cats, attracted to the spot by the provender. *Nutcracker*, awaking, exclaims, "Up, gnards, and at 'em!" and, after a terrific conflict, secures a victory. Sunlight returns; and then, what with the Palace of Nonsense and the Chamber of Whimsicalities, the success, which forms the theme of the piece, is realised, namely, abundance of laughter; in the midst of which the transformations occur—the clown being performed by Mr. T. Matthews, who, in the Hall of Twelfth-Cakes, wins a prize, with which the piece concludes. The whole getting-up is excellent; the scenery being, in fact, nothing less than superb. We must not omit, in our great admiration of Mr. T. Matthews, to record that Mr. Cormack was the *Harlequin*, Miss Malcolm the *Columbine*, and Mr. Morris the *Pantaloön*. All did their spitting with precision, force, and grace.

The house was crowded with a highly fashionable audience; and the whole performance testified to the liberality of the management, giving an earnest assurance of success, as well as of determination to deserve it.



SCENE FROM THE PANTOMIME OF "KING JAMIE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE MAGIC FIDDLE."





SCENE FROM THE EXTRAVAGANZA OF "THE NINTH STATUE; OR, THE JEWELS AND THE GEM," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

## ADELPHI.

"Frankenstein; or, the Model Man," is the name of the extravaganza produced at this theatre; the *Model Man* being none other than Mr. Paul Bedford himself, and his *Frankenstein* Mr. Wright, Senior Wrangler of Brasenose College, in the University of Krackenjausen, who, being in love, has a rival in *Otto of Rosenberg* (Miss Woolgar). The demon *Zamiel* (O. Smith) and a Master of the Ceremonies (by Freeborn) perform prominent rôles in the burlesque. The former puts life into the "What is it?" or Frankenstein monster, which then pursues its creator into the ball-room, and, but for a benevolent fairy, who contrives to subdue the mis-created by the force of music, might have effected wide-spread desolation. Already, indeed, a conflagration has spread in the baronial hall, only extinguished by the agency of *Undine*, the Spirit of the Flood, who finally conquers *Zamiel*, and delivers *Frankenstein*.

The jokes, thickly strewn over the dialogue, were of the broadest; but an Adelphi audience expect always the colossal in the extravagant; and in this burlesque they have most assuredly not been disappointed.

## HAYMARKET.

After the "Loving Woman," and "King René's Daughter," a grand extravaganza, entitled the "Ninth Statue; or, the Jewels and the Gem," by the Messrs. Brough, was produced. *Alasnam* (Miss P. Horton), over-fond, though a King, of beer, is subject to a visionary state of mind, and dreams of a grotto with eight statues in it—such grotto, with its superabundant wealth, having its correspondent reality in the waking world. By means of a subterranean passage, *Alasnam* finds his way to it, and there meets with *Rumfogi* (Mr. Bland), the chief Monarch of the geni, who proposes to add a ninth statue to the group, on condition that *Alasnam* provides him with a faultless maiden. Ultimately, he fulfils this condition by selecting *Zuleika* (Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam), whose modesty and personal charms succeed in attracting his own heart; but *Rumfogi* is inflexible, and has her carried off by violence, leaving his subject Monarch to melancholy and despair, and the reproaches of an angry mother, who thinks that the loss of a wife is not a thing to grieve for. *Rumfogi*, however, at length set-

ties all differences like a gentle gen, shewing *Zuleika* on the pedestal as the ninth statue, and bestowing her on her once disappointed but now happy lover.

Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam made her first appearance here in the character of the faultless maiden, and played enchantingly. Of Mr. Bland and Miss Horton, it is sufficient to state that they threw their usual exuberance of spirit into their respective parts. Mr. Munyard, also, as secretary to the amorous Monarch, had some humorous business to do, and some burlesque parodies to sing, which proved highly amusing. The audience was respectable as well as numerous, and the evening passed off without the slightest disturbance. It was composed of the class who could afford to be wise as well as merry.

The scene engraved is the entrance of *Alasnam*, the young King, into the grotto of eight statues.

## LYCEUM.

The extravaganza at this theatre—written, of course, by Mr. Planché—is entitled "The Island of Jewels." The King and Queen of Pharitale are the parents of two daughters—one ugly, and one beautiful, through the spells of the fairy *Magotine*, who had been forgotten at their christening. *Bellotta* (Miss Kenworthy) is the name of the lovely, and *Laidronetta* (Miss Julia St. George) that of the hideous sister. The former has a lover, one *Prince Prittiphello*; and, at their marriage ceremony, *Laidronetta* and her confidante, *Fidelia*, are refused admittance, and, being fain to return to the Lone Tower, are wrecked at sea on the Island of Jewels, the King of which has been changed into a green serpent, and his people into precious stones. The Princess, of course, finds a husband in *King Emerald*, as may be seen set forth more at large in the Countess D'Anois' story of "Serpentine Vert."

Of all Mr. Planché's burlesques, the present is, perhaps, the most elegant ever witnessed, and the way in which it has been produced the most gorgeous imaginable. An incidental ballet, on the subject of "Cupid and Psyche," was introduced into the action with fine effect. The concluding scene—discovering, in the midst of an unfolded column of palm leaves, seven nymphs supporting the crown jewels on a cushion—is indescribably magnificent. The whole, also, was in perfect taste; and the piece must be pronounced a crowning triumph in the art of burlesque.

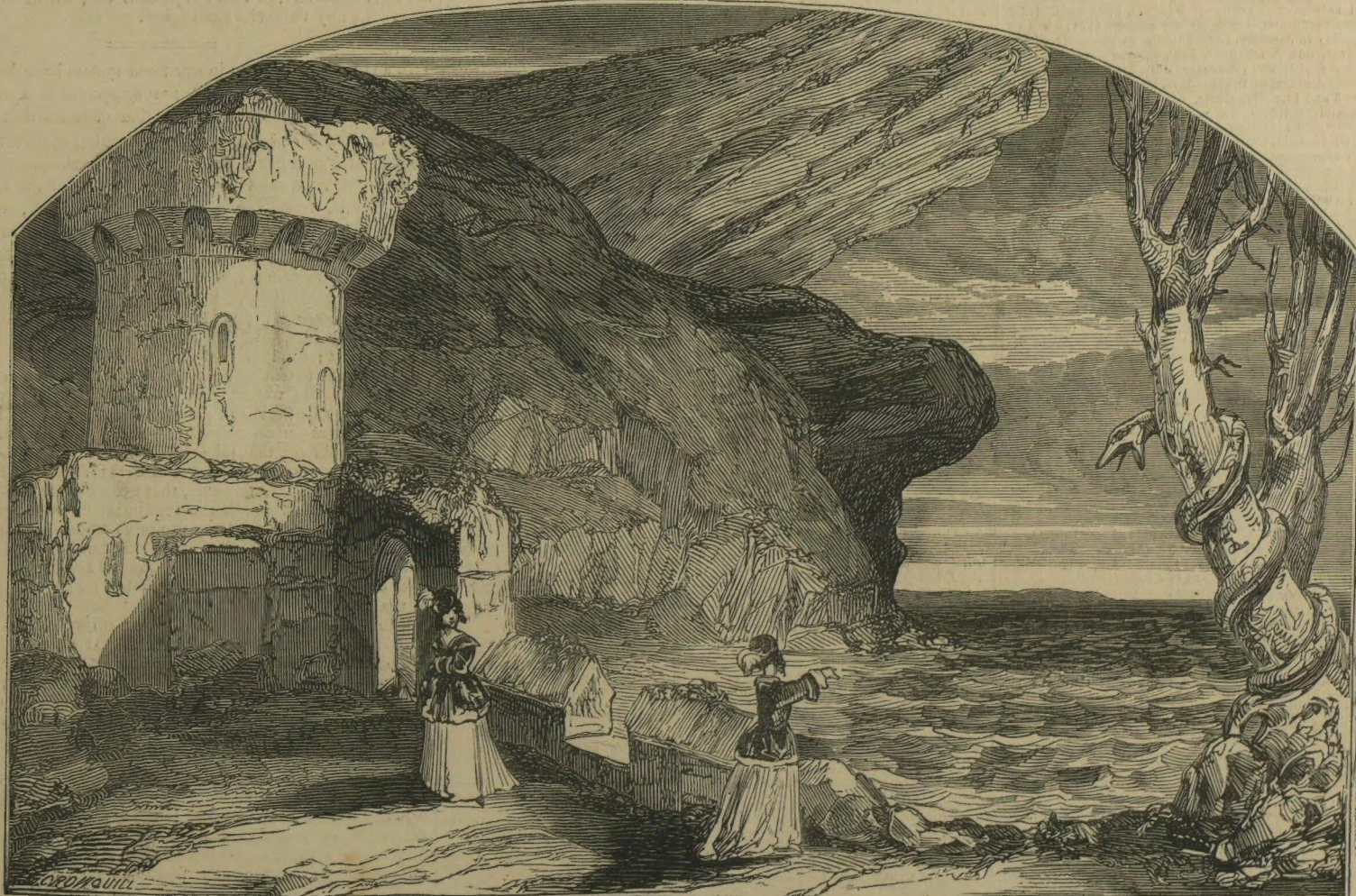
The scene engraved is the Lone Tower, with *Magotine* raising the storm at sea, with the saving intervention of the serpent.

## SADLER'S WELLS.

After "Venice Preserved," a new pantomime, by Mr. Greenwood, was produced, entitled "Harlequin and the Dragon of Wantley; or, Moore of Moore Hall and Mother Shipton's Black Dog." *Old Age*, in the regions of *Decay*, laments the dissolution of the ancient works of art, but *Youth* and his attendant *Beauties* enter, and, to raise his spirits, propose a Christmas pantomime, in which he is assisted by *Folly* and *Mother Shipton*. The site of Moore Hall is the village of Rotherham, in Yorkshire; and here the *Dragon of Wantley* is in due course destroyed by the valiant owner of the mansion, and the consequent transformations succeed, Mr. T. Ridgway being the *Clown*, Mr. Fenton the *Harlequin*, Mr. Thorne the *Sprite*, Mr. Grammain *Pantaloon*, and Miss Kirby *Columbine*. The grace of Miss Kirby and the agility of Mr. Thorne commanded the admiration of a crowded house, which, nevertheless, listened to the tragedy with extraordinary attention, a circumstance probably due to the impressive acting of Miss Glyn in *Belvidera*.

## MARYLEBONE.

This theatre, under the management of Mr. E. Stirling, leads off with an original drama, entitled "Clara Charette; or, a Daughter's Sacrifice"—a piece of domestic interest—criticism on which we must defer, not having been able to gather the dialogue, owing to the noise in the gallery. After this was produced a new pantomime, called "Harlequin Faëry-Land, the Princess Zela, and her Magic Wishes Three." It is the joint production of Mr. Watts and Nelson Leo. The faëry court in the pale moonlight opens the piece with poetic sentimentality. Fortune brings to Faëry-Land the sleeping *Princess Zela*, who had refused to wed for gold, and is then returned to earth, gifted with a magic branch. The lady's hand is ultimately put up to be disposed of in the grand halls of Katchkill Castle. At the auction are three special bidders—the *Knight of Gold*, the *Demon of Gold*, and the *Prince of Poverty*. The last offers all he is worth—his love—and is accepted; for which piece of audacity he is sent to prison. Subsequently, by aid of a magic glass, all three lovers are transported to California, where the miseries of the diggers are exhibited. A golden palace and a cot of happiness succeed, the requisite consent is obtained, and the transformations take place, Mr. Paul Pietro being the *Clown*.



SCENE FROM THE EXTRAVAGANZA OF "THE ISLAND OF JEWELS," AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.



## STRAND.

After "King René's Daughter," a burlesque called "Diogenes and his Lantern; or, the Hue and Cry after Honesty," was produced, in which it must be confessed that the whole strength of Mr. Farren's excellent company is engaged. The conduct of the well-known plot is of a mythological cast. We have an Olympian synod, with *Minerva* announcing her descent to help *Diogenes* in his search after an honest man, and suffering, on that account, the ridicule of the gods, which, however, she repays with interest. They, in return, disguise themselves, and also visit earth, bent on frustrating her design, in which they succeed. The composition of the piece is throughout in good taste; and there are many lines which are exquisitely pointed.

When we add that, in this little piece, Mrs. Stirling, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Mrs. Leigh Murray and her husband, with the two junior Farrens, and Messrs. Butler and Bender have not disdained to play, it may be readily conceived that the general effect is striking, and richly deserving of support.

## SURREY.

Colman's play of "The Mountaineers" is the leading piece for the holidays, and well chosen for the occasion. *Octavian* was admirably performed by Mr. Mead. This was followed by a pantomime, somewhat elegantly entitled "The Moon Queen and King-Night." An account of the plot was given in our last Number. It is by Alfred Crowquill, and is altogether as elegant as it is amusing. Some portions of it, however, will bear abridgment. *Midle*, *Luiza* as *Columbine*, *M. Lupino* as *Harlequin*, *Mr. Dewhurst* as *Clown*, *Mr. Naylor* as *Pantoloon*, and *M. J. Lupino* as the attendant *Sprite*, were excellent representatives of the respective characters.

## ASTLEY'S.

The grand equestrian spectacle of the "Knight of the Eagle Crest, or the Tourney of Love," with the scenes in the circle, introducing, for the first time, *Midle*, *Angèle* and her highly trained steeds, preceded, at this theatre, a new pantomime, by Mr. Nelson Lee, entitled "Harlequin Yankee Doodle." We gave an account of the plot in our last Number. The scenery is exceedingly brilliant, and the whole arrangement highly creditable to the skill and artistic feeling of all engaged.

## NEW PANORAMIC EXHIBITIONS.

**ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.**—A moving panorama is exhibiting at the Haymarket-rooms, combining the results of the principal Arctic navigators. The interest taken in the fate of Sir John Franklin ought to make the scenery of these Polar regions popular. The illustrations in the panorama are authentically rendered from original drawings by Sir James Ross, and Captains Lyon and Beechey. The uniform desolation of these tracts gives an air of monotony to the view; but their grandeur and beauty will doubtless be accepted as amply compensating for their want of variety.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—Mr. Bree's Panorama of New Zealand, in Leicester-square, is a highly interesting and well-painted series of views, animated with colonists and natives, and rendered illustrative of their habits and customs, being replete also with remarkable objects and incidents. We are thus made pictorially acquainted with life in the colony and in the bush. It deserves to be mentioned that the lecturer gives personal experiences in the explanations with which he accompanies the exhibition—verifying the accuracy of his drawings (which were made on the spot) by remarks and anecdotes, full of intelligence and point. The views are principally taken from the Port Nicholson district, and are presented under an aspect peculiarly encouraging to the intending emigrant.

**OHIO RIVER.**—Mr. Banvard's Panorama of this river was opened on Wednesday, at the Egyptian Hall, and presents a fine series of views, exhibiting the Queen City of the West, Cincinnati, and other scenery onward to the Mississippi and the City of New Orleans. The river is exceedingly animated, and the banks are varied with highly interesting groups and objects. The whole is intensely American, and is so elaborately painted that the characteristic peculiarities are uniformly brought out.

## FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

## PARIS, Wednesday.

In my last week's communication I promised an account of the *début* of Lucchesi, the new tenor from the Milan Scala. He has been singing in Rossini's "Matilda di Shabran," in the character of *Corradino*. This opera was composed for the Carnival of Rome in 1821, and was produced at the Apollo Theatre, the composer having completed the work only just previously to the closing of the season, so that merely two rehearsals took place, and the leader of the band, taking fright at the difficulties in the score, was replaced by the celebrated Paganini, to oblige Rossini. The amateurs received "Matilda" on its revival with the greatest delight, and the success of the new tenor was most decided. He is essentially a tenor of the Rossinian school, with an agreeable organ of no great power, but possessing executive facility of which modern tenors of the *criard* or shouting school are incapable. Lucchesi will, therefore, be a valuable acquisition under any circumstances, but he must be heard in other parts before his precise position can be indicated. The impression in his favour is generally very strong, and a tenor with agility and volubility is too rare not to be highly prized. The opera was very well executed altogether. If not equal to the "Barbieri," it is quite as fresh and captivating. In melody as the "Cenerentola," and more attractive than the "Turco in Italia," "Italiana in Algeri," &c. *Matilda* is one of Madame Persiani's most brilliant triumphs, and she quite electrified the audience by her wonderful *tours de force*. *Mlle. Vera* sings the music of the *Page* very nicely. *Morelli* was the chief basso, and Ronconi enacted the poet with the most unctuous humour. The production of "Matilda" has been quite an event for his management; he has fought a most difficult battle to maintain the Italian Opera House, since the Revolution; for of all establishments, this undertaking, the favoured aristocratic resource, suffered the most by the change of government. Ronconi has, however, exhibited much perseverance and tact, and the boxes and stalls begin to display something like the elegant *toilettes* of former days.

Cerito and St. Leon have returned to their engagement at the Grand Opera. *Carlotta Grisi* has her leave of absence the end of this month, and will go to Germany, and perhaps to England. "Le Prophète" has now been played thirty-seven times, and the receipts have been nearly £15,000.

**MUSICAL EVENTS.**—There were three concerts on Boxing-night: one at Ex ter Hall, being the tenth of the London Wednesday Concerts; Ernst and Thalberg, and Master Ward (concertina), were the instrumentalists, and Mrs. A. Newton, Misses Eyles and Poole, Messrs. Land and Smyth on, the vocalists. The second was at the Saxeux Hall, given by the vocalists the Misses A. and H. Alexander, assisted by the Misses Cubitt, L. Pettigrew, E. Ward, Messrs. H. Russell, Mattocks, Genge, G. Case, and Davies; and the third, Mr. J. Lowry's concert, at the National Hall, Holborn, with Mrs. Temple, Misses Cubitt and Felton, Messrs. Genge, G. Robinson, F. Smith and Ford. The meetings of the Melodists' Club will commence for the season, on the last Tuesday in January; Mr. James King has succeeded Mr. Parry, as secretary. The Round, Catch, and Canon Club, instituted 1843, and the Glee Club (1787), have begun their meetings. The anniversary festival of the Madrigal Society (1741) will be celebrated on the third Thursday in January, Lord Saltoun in the chair, Sir A. Barnard, G.C.B., vice-president, and T. Oliphant, Esq., secretary. The next meeting of the Western Madrigal Society will take place on the 5th of January. The Philharmonic Concerts will take place on the Mondays, March 4 and 18; April 8 and 22; May 6 and 20; June 3 and 17. Mr. Costa, conductor; Mr. G. Budd, secretary and librarian; Mr. Anderson, hon. treasurer; and M. Sainton and H. Blagrove alternately first violins. The Directors for 1850 are Messrs. G. Anderson, Lucas, J. H. Griesbach, C. Neate, J. Calken, J. B. Chatterton, and J. Mac-Murdo. There will be a new symphony by Molique, and it is to be hoped, one by Berlioz. The Choral Harmonists will resume their concerts at the London Tavern in the season. The third of Mr. Willey's classical concerts will take place on Monday, at St. Martin's Hall.

## ANSWERS TO "WHYS FOR THE WISE,"

AT PAGE 423.

1. Because he is illustrated with cuts taken on the spot.
2. From his position in life, he is liable to a tax.
3. When used, it is only putting one crown on another.
4. It won't hold. It is seen through.
5. It is of a nobbiness never borne by gentlemen.
6. He has already worn it above two (years).
7. Made to carry a point through.
8. It is placed above man.
9. It makes things fast.
10. Easily beaten.
11. It is read outside.
12. It is a substitute, where there has been no reigning lately.
13. It is unlike the waist (waste) of your youth.
14. By one act it lowers the corn.
15. It is capable of making an impression with whacks (wax).
16. It goes over the sleepers.
17. There is a great deal of fiction on a very little fact.
18. It is carried by the Noes (nose).
19. They are to be taken when the cold is severe.
20. It takes a blow from any one.
21. It goes before Everything and Everybody.
22. It hides the woman.
23. Because the Commissioners put a number round his neck.
24. It is bent upon getting to the top.
25. Because by its gentle revolution it opens the door to greater things.
26. Waiting for a chop.
27. Because it is decidedly put out.
28. It is a leg-all (legal) tender.
29. It gets trussed (trust) when it does not want it.
30. It never gets anything in the pound.
31. He is in "trouble" through a bill.
32. It is sure to come after you (it).
33. It is nothing without it's thrown (throne).
34. It has a neigh (nay) for everything.
35. Everything is a matter of course with him.
36. There's a great deal in the habit.
37. It's the hare-a-parent.
38. It's a bill quite out of date.
39. Whatever it does, it must be tolled (told) by some one else.
40. There's a Bridge of Size in it.
41. Constantly on the 'Change.
42. It goes to the head and settles the point of a tack (attack).
43. He never does more than try.
44. His is the fee line (feline).
45. It assists in sweetening everything.
46. It burns for a number.
47. It is positively a great singer (grate singer).
48. It blows upon everything.
49. He continually sends poor devils to the union.
50. He is always putting his foot in it.
51. It is bootless.
52. He considers it part of his duty to relieve his comrades.
53. He had a reverse, by being bent on a measure.
54. He only takes it in by the peck.
55. It brings the little branches together.
56. It's been in a row, and you can't collect the rents.

## IMPORTANT TO NEWSPAPER PURCHASERS.

Early in the New Year, 1850, will be given a

## SPLENDID VIEW OF ROME

To all REGULAR SUBSCRIBERS to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, from this date. This View of Rome has been carefully drawn by Artists specially engaged in that City; and the utmost care has been taken to have the Drawings Engraved in the best manner.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 30.—First Sunday after Christmas.  
MONDAY, 31.—Silvester. Sun rises 8h. 9m., sets 3h. 58m.  
TUESDAY, Jan. 1, 1850.—Circumcision. Sun rises 8h. 8m., sets 4h. 0m.  
WEDNESDAY, 2.—Length of day 7h. 53m.  
THURSDAY, 3.—Day breaks 6h. 3m. a.m.  
FRIDAY, 4.—Twilight ends 6h. 6m. p.m.  
SATURDAY, 5.—Moon's Last Quarter 8h. 37m. a.m.

## TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 5, 1850.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 13	30 3	3 28	4 5	10 4	35 5	0 5
5 13	30 3	3 28	4 5	10 4	35 5	0 5

**FRENCH PLAYS AND OPERA COMIQUE, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.**—Mr. MITCHELL, respectfully announces that the Season will commence on MONDAY, JANUARY 7th, by the production of a new opera, in three acts, entitled *LE VAL D'ANDORRE*, the Music composed by Halevy, the Libretto by M. de St. Georges. Principal Characters by Mademoiselle Chantou, Mlle. Gutchard, Mlle. Chollet of the Opera Comique, Paris—his first appearance in this country; Mlle. Loe of the Theatre, Brussels and Ghent—his first appearance; M. Quilly Le Roy (Pupil of the Conservatoire, Paris—his first appearance), and Mlle. Nathan (Premier Basses of the Opera Comique, Paris—his first appearance). Herold's celebrated opera of *ZAMPA* is also in preparation, and will be produced during the following week. Prospectus of the general arrangements, with Terms of the Season Subscription, may be obtained at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; and at the Box-office of the Theatre, which will be opened on Tuesday next, Jan. 1.

**ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.**—Proprietor, Mr. W. BATTY.—Glorious Success of the New Grand Christmas Comic Pantomime, which was received with shouts of approbation and roars of laughter from the rising to the fall of the curtain, by a house crowded to the very ceiling. On MONDAY, DEC. 31, the Entertainment will commence at Seven, with the highly successful and magnificent Chivalric Spectacle of the *KNIGHT OF THE EAGLE CREST*; or, the *TOURNEY OF LOVE*, in which Mr. N. T. HICKS will appear. To be succeeded by the powerfully attractive Novelties in the Arena, supported by the talented Artists of the Establishment, and introducing, for the Fifth time, *Mlle. ANGELE*, from the Hippodrome, Paris, who has been received with the greatest enthusiasm. Re-appearance of the extraordinary Rope-dancer, *Mlle. CODONE*. To conclude with the unprecedentedly successful New Grand Comic Pantomime of *HARLEQUIN YANKEE DOODLE* Come to Town upon his little Pony.

**SIMS REEVES, ERNST, and THALBERG.**—On WEDNESDAY NEXT, JAN. 2nd, will be held the ELEVENTH of the LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS (and will be the last but four of the series). Vocal Performers: Mrs. A. Newton, Miss Lucombe, Miss Eyles, Miss Poole, and Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Leffer. Solo, Violin, Herr Ernst. Grand Pianoforte, M. Thalberg. Tickets, 1s and 2s; Reserved Seats, 4s; Stalls, 7s, may be had of Mr. STAMMERS, at the office of the Concerts, No. 4 Exeter Hall; and of all Music-sellers.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—The First of a Series of ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, by Dr. Bachofner, on the PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC RECREATION, daily at two o'clock, and in the evenings at eight. An entirely new set of DISSOLVING VIEWS OF LONDON IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY AND AS IT NOW IS, with a Descriptive Lecture, daily at half-past four, and in the evenings at a quarter to six. THE VIEWS OF ROME, including new views of the Interior and Exterior of St. Peter's, with Descriptive Lectures, are shown daily at one o'clock. Lectures on Chemistry, with brilliant experiments, by Mr. Ashley—Experiments with the Diver and Diving Bell—New Exhibition of Chromatopes.—The Machinery, Models, &c. explained.—Admission, 1s; Schools, half-price.

**BANVARD'S OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS.**—EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY, showing Thousands of Miles of American Scenery, extending through the heart of America, exhibiting Cincinnati, the Queen City of the West, the beautiful Falls of the Ohio, the noble scenery to the Mississippi, thence to the city of New Orleans—Open every Morning at Half-past Two; Evening, Half-past Seven.—Admission: Lower Seats, 2s; Gallery, 1s. Mr. Banvard is the FIRST PROJECTOR of the enormous paintings of this class.

**ART-UNION OF LONDON.**—Incorporated by Royal Charter. The SUBSCRIPTION LIST for the Current Year IS NOW OPEN. Each Subscriber of One Guinea will receive, in addition to one Share in the next Annual Distribution of Prizes, a pair of Line Engravings, after T. Webster, R.A. "THE SMILE" and "THE FROW," WHICH MAY BE HAD AT THE TIME OF PAYING THE SUBSCRIPTION; and a Series of Engravings, after D. Maclellan, R.A., illustrating Shakespeare's "Seven Ages." GEORGE GODWIN, Honorary LEWIS POOCK, Secretaries.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's-inn-road: Open Day** and Night for the Admission of the Destitute Sick, without letter of recommendation, or any other preliminary form.

The Weekly Board have the satisfaction to announce, that, by the liberality of the Public, the hospital has been enabled to receive a large number of the large wards, which want of funds alone obliged them for so long a time to keep closed. As this additional number of beds will add considerably to the weekly expenses of the Charity, the Weekly Board earnestly entreat the aid of the charitable and humane, that they may continue this increased relief and comfort to the poor objects who, more especially at this season, daily present themselves at the gates of the Hospital.

Contributions received by the Treasurer, John Masterman, Esq., M.P., Nicholas-lane; also by Messrs. Coutts and Co.; Drummond and Co.; Herries and Co.; Prosser, Grose, and Co.; Smith, Payne, and Co.; Glyn and Co.; Jones Lloyd and Co.; Barclay and Co.; Denison and Co.; Williams, Deacon, and Co.; Overend, Gurney, and Co.; Nisbet and Co.; Burners-street; Masterman and Co.; and at the Hospital.

By order of the Weekly Board, R. RICE, D.D., Chairman. N.B. The Committee meet in the Board-room every Wednesday, at Seven o'clock, to manage and direct all the affairs of the Charity, which meetings the subscribers are invited to attend, and the hospital is at all times open to the inspection of the public. Cast-off apparel, male and female, also old linen rags, will be gratefully acknowledged.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A CONSTANT READER, Nottingham.—Send your coin to Mr. Webster, 17, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden.  
H. H. Higman.—Westminster Abbey has some of the finest specimens of Early English architecture existing.  
W. H. H.—See the article "Wales," in the "Penny Cyclopaedia;" or the published Tours in the Principality; or Sir Thomas Phillips's History.  
A W T.—Perhaps the best popular work for your purpose would be Pearson's "Practical Astronomy," with Tables; and its price, we believe, is £3 3s. We cannot enumerate all the works used in the construction of the *Nautical Almanack*; they are, however, mentioned in the Preface to that work.  
THE BISHOP LIGHTHOUSE is accurately described in our Paper of the 24th ult., but its locality is erroneously stated. It will be about 33 miles west of the Land's End, and 5 to 6 miles west of St. Mary's, the principal of the Scilly Islands.  
X X.—Hernard de Newmarch bore for arms, "Ga. five fusils conjoined in fesse or." Apply to Mr. H. Horn, York-street, Covent-garden, for the work required.  
A SUBSCRIBER.—Hungary—Mr. H. holds no appointment under Government.  
C M H.—Dr. Wilberforce was consecrated Bishop of Oxford in 1847.  
D D.—Scotland—The party could claim the legacy under the name he is known by.  
TO YE.—See Burke's "Armoury."  
R A W.—The arms of Bentley are, "Or three bends sa. Crest—A spaniel dog passant arg." LYONS.—A motto may be adopted at pleasure.  
L K.—The critic says 25; but a few years more may be safely added.  
J G A.—The violoncello is better than the piano to obtain the correct tone for the bass voice.  
A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.—The accordion can be acquired without a master, and so can any instrument, if the player has genius; refer to a music-seller.  
J R T.—There is the difference of a quarter of a tone, as will be proved on the violin HAMLET—Reboul is living in Italy. The passage is from "Twelfth Night."  
CHENE.—See the article, "New Routes and Maps," in our Journal for December 8.  
H C M.—Unless your mother was a hoarse or co-hoarse, you are not entitled to quarter her arms.  
L N.—We apprehend that Prince Albert has no surname. His family was of Sovereign degree at the time names were first assumed.  
ABRUZZ.—Application should be made to the Secretary of the Royal Academy. The Dukes of Bedford and Buckingham never fought a duel.  
Z X.—Cauterbury.—The cost of the copy of a coat of arms, if the arms be registered at the Herald's Office, would be very trifling—less than a guinea.  
M R R.—The arms of Auderton, of Auderton, in Yorkshire, are—"Sa. three shackles arg. two and one;" the arms of Auderton, of Auderton, in Lancashire, are—"Sa. a chev. between three shackles arg.".  
A SUBSCRIBER.—No one has a right to adopt a coat of arms, or a crest, unless legally entitled. Apply to the Officers in Waiting, Herald's Office, Doctors' Commons.  
Φ (Α) ΦΙΛΩΣ.—Brighton.—Apply to Mr. Van Voorst, publisher, 1, Paternoster-row.  
B R.—Richardson's English Dictionary, 2 vols. 4to, or 1 vol. 8vo.  
M S B.—Lexington.—The changes of the Court mourning will be on January 6, 13, and 20.  
C H. King's-road.—We cannot comply with your request.  
A LEBBURY SUBSCRIBER may learn from any list of hackney-carriage fares.  
P S.—Your notice must be given according to the agreement.  
A POOR SCHOLAR.—Apply at the Government School of Design, Somerset-house.  
W P. Diss.—The "Character of a Poet" is by the great Lord Shaftesbury.  
HORTENSE.—Oxalic acid (poison) and water.  
J G S, Nottingham.—We cannot precisely inform you.  
I R J, Liverpool.—A paper was lately read on the Panama question at the Institution of Civil Engineers, and is reported in the *Athenaeum*.  
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER, Birmingham.—We do not commend blinding our Journal in annual volumes.  
J. Leamington Spa.—We believe there to be a depository in New Bond-street.  
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.—The receipt will not render you liable.  
A S. Carlisle, will find two views of New York in No. 398 of our Journal.  
SUBSCRIBER, Crawford.—Dr. Golding Bird's work on Natural Philosophy is published by Churchill, Prince-street, Soho.  
A.—The Auroch (ure-ox) is a bovine animal, found fossil in alluvion. (See a brief memoir in No. 385 of our Journal).  
POTTER.—The artist in question is a promising painter. For his address, see the *Artist's Almanack* for 1850.  
G B K. Dublin.—The best way to ascertain will be to advertise.  
We should see the little book on the National Debt, published by Wilson, Royal Exchange.  
R C.—The arms stated are those of the Greys, who are descended from the Magregors.  
ROMEO.—The crescent should be coloured black.  
PLUTUS.—A search through the different church registers would be necessary.  
AN OLD AND ADMIRING READER.—The husband of an heiress is entitled to bear on an escutcheon of pretence the arms of his wife during the lifetime of the lady's father, as well as after his death. An heiress, in heraldry, is a lady who has no brother or whose brothers have died without issue. The inheritance of property is of no consequence. The line separating the quarters should be black. The tinctures and colours of the M'Crea shield are—"field," "argent," "lion," "gules," "mullets," "silver." We will try to answer satisfactorily our correspondent's enquiry regarding the Pitt arms.  
GERALDUS CAMERENENSIS.—A light shade of green.

A WOULD-BE PUPIL.—The Ladies' College is at 47, Bedford-square.  
E M B. Barking.—Harvard College is three miles from Boston, U.S. Apply to any Postmaster for the rest.  
A SUBSCRIBER, Richmond.—The Servants' Provident Society's Office is at 8, Cork-street, Broad-street.  
E C D.—Address, Near Savage, Salop. We do not know of any other book for the purpose in question.  
TOBACCO.—See "Penny Cyclopaedia," art. Wales, p. 297.  
J S B. Dumfries.—We cannot spare room for the Address.  
OPTIMUS.—Riddle's "Dictionary," (Longmans).  
B W. Glasgow.—We must decline giving any opinion on the matter.  
A CONSTANT READER had better wait for Mr. Knight's "Imperial Cyclopaedia of Geography."  
A HEDDERFIELD SUBSCRIBER.—We do not interfere in wagers.  
J X L.—See Mr. "Stooge's" "Real Life in India."  
E B C. Douglas, Isle of Man, is thanked; but we have no room, save for subjects of immediate interest.  
CLERICUS is thanked; the subject, from the architect's drawing, is already in our engraver's hands.  
F G. Stratford-on-Avon.—Is not the "relic" a cribbage-board?  
J O L. Newbury.—See the "London University Calendar," published by Taylor, Walton, and Co., Gower-street.  
A Z. Silgo.—Beefeaters and their costume date from the reign of Henry VIII. The name, in all probability, is corrupted from *Buttifiers*, the yeomen of the guard who waited at the Royal table, and were ranged near the buffets, or sideboards.  
JOSKE.—The property will go to the next of kin, according to the will.  
EDITH, Dublin.—Apply to Mr. Thomas, newspaper agent, Catherine-street, Strand.  
R L. Halifax.—Your bookseller in the town should order the work.  
B F.—The incident of Una and the Lion is from Spenser.  
A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.—We know nothing of the Company in question.  
ΓΑΥΡΑ.—The novel of "Frank Fairleigh" is re-publishing in parts.  
ZADDEUS will be liable.  
W's lines are declined.  
A SUBSCRIBER, Clifton.—Address, Strand.  
SPECIMEN, Cork.—Moustache.  
M W R K.—We have not time to search.  
J B, Birmingham.—The designs are copyright.  
J H.—The lines are ineligible.  
NEAVIAS, W. L. Glasgow; Jessy Jones, S. B. F G B.—Declined.  
L C D.—We cannot comply with your request.  
E G O. Langport, should advertise.  
B F.—Apply to Ackermann and Co., Strand.  
MEDICUS.—The sketches have been received.  
G F J. Chester.—Thanks.  
FIRE FLY.—We think not.  
J F.—Next week.

## BOOKS, &amp;c., RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

Webster's Royal Red-Book.—Crowquill's Christmas Pieces.—Crowquill's Pantomime.—Young Troublesome.—Mr. Pips hys Diary.  
MUSIC.—The Old Deserted Church.—Consider the Lilies.—The First and Last Dear Thing I was fond to Love.—Monte Christo Polka.—Strathmore Quadrille.—The Court Waltzes.—The Catalan Polka.

\* \* We are compelled, by press of other seasonable illustrations, to omit the Engraving of the late Protectionist Meeting at Lincoln, fully reported in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of last week.

## SUPPLEMENT GRATIS!

On SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1850, will be GIVEN

## A SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

## ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

With the First Number for the Year, commencing a New Volume.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1849.

The French Legislative Assembly has done a bold and necessary, though very unpopular act, in re-imposing the duty on potable liquors. The late Constituent Assembly, the very day before its legal expiry, and almost without the form of deliberation, abolished the duty, though amounting to 100,000,000 of francs, and though the Exchequer was virtually bankrupt at the time, without any other apparent motive than the very unworthy and disgraceful one of embarrassing its successors. In re-imposing the duty, in spite of the unpopularity of the proceeding, the present Assembly has performed a very necessary though unpleasant duty, and deserves the thanks of every man in France, who values the national honour more than temporary expediency. In such unhappy circumstances as those of France, with a large deficit in the revenue, and without any present means of inventing new taxes to supply the void, the first duty of men in power is to diminish expenditure; the second is to hold firm by what they have got, and to repeal no tax of such productive magnitude until they have provided a substitute. In this respect the financial economists of the Republic are at their wits' end. The country is taxed to the uttermost farthing that it can bear; and even the re-imposition of the tax on liquors, necessary as it is, is a proceeding by no means unattended with danger both in the present and the future. The first great resource remains. No country can prosper with a standing army of 500,000 men. That is the sore in the body politic of the Republic; and until means are found to reduce the army at least one half, France will continue to groan in the agonies of financial difficulty. In the meantime, the re-imposition of the wine-tax is likely to tell against the Government. The rural voters will remember at the next election two facts—that the ultra-Republicans relieved them of an odious, oppressive, and anti-commercial impost, and that the moderates re-imposed it. The consequence will be an infusion of Red Republicanism into the next Assembly, or into the present one, whenever, by death or otherwise, any vacancies shall occur.

The advocates of reform in our fiscal system have begun to sound the note of preparation; and the symptoms of a well-organized agitation for the repeal or modification of taxes that interfere unduly with trade or commerce, are becoming apparent, prior to the meeting of Parliament. It is not likely, in the present state of the Revenue, that the most productive branches of the Excise or Customs can be interfered with. The Malt Duty, which yielded £4,285,887 in England, and £546,345 in Scotland, in 1844, cannot be spared; the Duty on Spirits, which yielded from these two divisions of the country, in the same period, £4,227,077, is equally essential to the Budget; and both duties—if duties must be levied at all—are as fair and inoppressive as can well be imagined. The Malt Duty is alleged to bear with undue severity upon the Agricultural interest; but its repeal would not benefit agriculture to anything like the extent of the tax; and it must be borne in mind, that the ultimate weight of it falls, not upon the farmer, but upon the consumer of beer and ale—upon the people of large towns—upon labourers—upon tradesmen—and even upon our colonies and possessions abroad, that take annually such large quantities of our Guinness's stout, our Barclay and Perkins's porter, and our Bass's ale. We anticipate, however, that greater success will attend the efforts of those who urge the readjustment and reduction of the Tea Duties. The Tea Duty produces about one-twelfth of the annual revenue of the United Kingdom; but it is universally allowed to be too high, and to press with undue severity upon the inferior sorts of tea, and upon the most harmless and exhilarating beverage of the poor.

The question for the consideration of economists is, whether a judicious reduction of duty would not lead to a largely increased consumption, and the eventual attainment of as great a revenue as is at present derived from the article; and whether, at the same time, the increased intercourse with the richest and most populous country in the world, which would be the necessary consequence, would not be a clear gain to all the interests of the State, and give a mightier impetus to our commerce than it has received within the memory of this generation. We know of no reform in our financial system of more importance than this. Happily, no class or party interests are involved in the question; it is simply a consideration of revenue, and an experiment which the country may make without any overwhelming risk. Our merchants and manufacturers require new markets; our labouring population



requires a tea not more highly taxed in proportion than the rich man's finer descriptions of the article: and if both these objects can be attained by a reduction of duty—with a probability that, in the long run, the revenue will not be a loser by the alteration—Great Britain is happily in no such pecuniary difficulty as to forbid the trial. We believe that this subject will be among the first that will await decision in the approaching Session.

There is one other item of excise which is not extremely productive, but which in its operation places the manufacturer of this country at a great disadvantage. We allude to the excise duty on paper—a tax upon knowledge and upon literature, a tax upon commerce, and a grievous impediment in the way of many honourable professions and pursuits of life. The sum yielded is comparatively trifling—little more than half a million—and offers nothing like an equivalent to the State for the injury it inflicts. We propose hereafter to return to this subject; and trust in the meantime that the efforts of financial reformers will be steadily directed towards it. There is a rumour abroad that the Ministry only require a little gentle pressure to yield the point. We trust the rumour will prove true, and shall do our utmost to aid the consummation.

## COURT AND HAUT TON.

### THE COURT AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by the Royal Family, and attended by the Marchioness of Douro, the Hon. Miss Lennox, Lord Alfred Paget, Col. Bouvier, and General Bowles, arrived at Windsor Castle at twenty-five minutes past one o'clock on Saturday last, from Osborne. The Royal party travelled by a special train on the South-Western Railway to Basingstoke, and from thence by the Great Western Railway to Windsor—on reaching the terminus at which place, they were received by a guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton.

The usual Court festivities of the season have been altogether omitted during the week, owing to the recent demise of the Queen Dowager. The only visitors at the Castle have been the Duchess Ida, and the Princes and Princesses of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duchess of Kent, all of whom arrived at the Castle shortly after the Court reached it on Saturday.

On Sunday morning the Queen and Prince Albert, with her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, her Serene Highness the Duchess of Saxe-Weimar, their Serene Highnesses the Princesses Anne and Amelia of Saxe-Weimar, and Prince Edward and Prince Gustavus of Saxe-Weimar, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended divine service in the private chapel of the Castle.

On Monday the Duchess Ida, with the Princes and Princesses of Saxe-Weimar, took leave of her Majesty, and returned to Marlborough House.

On Christmas Day her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended divine service in the private chapel. The Hon. and Rev. G. Wellesley officiated. In the evening of the same day the Duchess of Kent dined with the Queen. The only other guests at the Royal table were the Dowager Lady Lyttleton and the Honourable Miss Lyttleton, Colonel the Hon. C. B. and Mrs. Phipps, and Colonel the Hon. Charles and Mrs. Grey.

The Royal dinner party on Thursday included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, General and Lady Isabella Wemyss, and Sir George and Lady Cowper.

The fine weather during the week has enabled her Majesty and the Prince to take their accustomed early walking exercise almost daily. The Royal children have also taken frequent riding and walking exercise.

Her Serene Highness the Duchess Ida of Saxe-Weimar, with the Princesses Anne and Amelia, dined with her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester on Thursday, at Gloucester House.

Lord Elphinstone has relieved the Earl of Morley in his duty as Lord in Waiting to the Queen, and Colonel Berkeley Drummond has relieved Mr. Ormsby Gore in his duty as Groom in Waiting to her Majesty.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Anglesey are at Beaudesert, the family seat, near Lichfield, surrounded by a select party, including the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, the Earl of Uxbridge, Viscount and Viscountess Sydney, Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, Lord and Lady Templemore, Lord Alfred Paget, &c.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Abercorn and family have left Chesterfield House for Barons Court, county Tyrone.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury are entertaining a select party at Hatfield House.

The Earl Granville has arrived at Woburn Abbey, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Bedford.

The Viscountess Nevill was safely delivered of a daughter at Hackness Hall, Yorkshire, on Christmas-Day.

Lord and Lady John Russell returned to Pembroke Lodge on Wednesday, from visiting the Marquis of Lansdowne, at Bowood.

The Lady Burghley was safely delivered of a son and heir on Thursday week, in Bruton-street.

Lady Mary Fox has arrived at Nice from Paris.

The Lady Sarah Lindsay was safely delivered of a daughter on Saturday morning, at the Earl of Balcarres's residence, in Berkeley-square.

His Excellency Mr. Abbott Laurence, Minister from the United States, has quitted the Clarendon Hotel, where he has been sojourning during the last four months, and entered upon the Ambassadorial residence in Piccadilly.

**THE "RELAY" QUESTION RAISED.**—On Monday, Mr. F. Robinson, solicitor, appeared before Mr. R. Brandt, the sitting magistrate, at the New Bailey, Manchester, to offer recognisances on behalf of Mr. David Mills, of Heywood, to appeal at the quarter sessions against a conviction under the Factory Act.

Mr. Robinson stated that Mr. Mills had been convicted in a penalty of £5 for hanging up in his mill a notice board, which was not in conformity with the act. The form of notice involved the whole question of working by relays; and under the act of the 12th and 13th Victoria, the appellant might appeal to the Court of Exchequer. The appellant and respondent having agreed to a special case for the purpose, Mr. Mills was going to appeal to the Court of Exchequer in the next term. The judgment of that Court would be recorded at the following court of quarter sessions. Mr. Mills and two other gentlemen then entered into recognisances in £40 each to appeal, and to pay such costs as the Court might award.

The Government contract for one hundred thousand gallons of rum for the navy has been taken by Messrs. Lemon, Hart, and Son, of 59, Fenchurch-street.

**THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—It is understood that this society (which, it will be remembered, assembled three months since at Chester) will hold their annual meeting for 1850 in Lancashire. They have elected James Heywood, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., &c., their president, and they will visit both Manchester and Lancaster, though it is not yet fixed which of the two places will have the greatest share of their attention.

**A SEASONABLE GIFT.**—A deputation, consisting of Mr. Morgan and Mr. Imms (churchwardens), Capt. Ridout, R.N., Capt. Savage, R.A., Lieut. Robertson, R.N., Mr. Roff (recently churchwarden), and Mr. Henry Sheresby, assembled on Monday evening (Christmas Eve), in the vestry-room of St. Mary's Church, Woolwich, and sent a communication to the Rev. Mr. Thomas, curate to the Rev. Wm. Greenlaw, rector of the parish church, requesting his attendance. The worthy curate arrived without being aware of the object for which his presence was requested, and was taken by surprise when the members of the deputation communicated to him that their presence in the vestry was for the purpose of presenting to him a purse, containing fifty guineas, the spontaneous contributions of several of the attendants of St. Mary's Church, who were gratified with his discourses and conduct since he had officiated as curate in the parish. The Rev. Mr. Thomas was so overpowered by this mark of kindness on the part of the parishioners as for some time to be unable to reply; but he subsequently, in a most feeling manner, acknowledged the unexpected present which had been conferred upon him on this occasion.

**SUICIDE ON THE YORK AND SCARBOROUGH RAILWAY.**—On Christmas-Eve a frightful event occurred at the foot of Matton-bridge, within a short distance of the station at that town. The line crosses the Scarborough turnpike road at this point on a level where the latter passes out of Matton to the adjoining parish of Norton, with, of course, the usual gates, and a gatekeeper is in attendance to close and open them as the traffic on the line or road requires. The mail train from Scarborough is due at Matton at five o'clock, shortly before which period a man was observed lingering about this thoroughfare, which is one of the leading ones of the neighbourhood. He entered into conversation with the gatekeeper, asking when the train was due, which line it came upon, and questions of that nature, when at length the gatekeeper signalled its approach, and warned the deceased to remove himself out of danger. Instead of doing so, he suddenly cried out that his object was to meet the train, that he was tired of life, and darting forward threw himself across the rails in front of the approaching engine, which passed over him, severing his limbs, and scattering them about the line in various directions. The act was witnessed by several persons, one of whom endangered his own life by an attempt to rescue the deceased. The deceased was named Skelton, aged about twenty-one, the son of a labourer living at Old Matton, and had for some time been employed in repairing the roads in the vicinity. The only presumed reason for his committing of this act, is that he laboured under an internal disease of a peculiar character, and which he considered, as perhaps it was, incurable. A second suicide occurred in the same vicinity on the same day, a man working in a flour-mill having poisoned himself by taking a quantity of arsenic. Shortly after his having taken the poison, he told his fellow-workmen what he had done, and he was immediately brought into Norton for medical assistance, which was found fruitless, as he died in a few hours. Two such events occurring on the same day in a rural district necessarily caused the greatest possible excitement.

## CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

### OXFORD.

Congregations will be held for the purpose of granting graces and conferring degrees on the following days in the ensuing term; viz. Monday, Jan. 14; Thursday, Jan. 24; Thursday, Feb. 7; Thursday, Feb. 21; Thursday, March 7; Thursday, March 14; Saturday, March 23. No person will be admitted as a candidate for any degree whose name is not entered in the book kept for that purpose at the Vice-Chancellor's house on or before the day preceding the day of congregation. On Tuesday, Feb. 12, a congregation will be held, as provided in the dispensation for intermitting the forms and exercises of determination, solely for the purpose of receiving from the deans or other officers of their respective colleges or halls the names of such Bachelors of Arts as have not yet determined; and their names having been so signified to the house, and thereupon inserted in the register of congregation, they may at any time in the same or in any future term be admitted to all the rights and privileges to which they would have been entitled by the intermitted forms and exercises. And every Bachelor of Arts is desired to take notice that unless he has proceeded to that degree on or before Thursday, February 7, his name cannot be inserted in the register of congregation during the present year. F. C. PLUMPTRE, Vice-Chancellor. University College, Dec. 21, 1849.

### CAMBRIDGE.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Chancellor of the University being pleased to give annually a gold medal for the encouragement of English poetry, the prize will be given this year to such resident undergraduate as shall compose the best elegiac poem on the late Queen Adelaide. The exercises are not to exceed 200 lines in length.

The Most Noble the Marquis Camden being pleased to give annually a gold medal as a prize for the best exercise in Latin hexameter verse, the subject for the present year is "Mare Arcticum." The exercises are not to exceed 100 lines in length. All undergraduates who shall have resided not less than two terms before the day on which the exercises must be sent in, or who shall at least be then in the course of their second term of residence, may be candidates for this medal.

The Representatives in Parliament for this University being pleased to give annually two prizes, of fifteen guineas each, for the encouragement of Latin prose composition, to be open to all Bachelors of Arts, without distinction of years, who are not of sufficient standing to take the degree of Master of Arts; and two other prizes, of fifteen guineas each, to be open to all undergraduates, who shall have resided not less than seven terms at the time when the exercises are to be sent in; the subjects for the present year are, for the Bachelors, "Monumenta prisca artis in Assyria nuper reperta;" for the undergraduates, "Homerus et Shaksperius inter se collati."

Sir William Brown having bequeathed three gold medals, of the value of five guineas each, to such resident graduates as shall compose the best Greek ode in imitation of Sappho; the best Latin ode in imitation of Horace; the best Greek epigram after the model of the Anthologia; and the best Latin epigram after the model of Martial; the subjects for the present year are—for the Greek ode, "Ninus;" for the Latin ode, "Regina Hibernia visit;" for the Latin epigram, "Caelum, non animum mutant, qui trans mare currunt;" for the Greek epigram, "Ερεα πτερόβρυτα." The Greek ode is not to exceed twenty-five, nor the Latin ode thirty stanzas. The Greek ode must be accompanied by a literal Latin prose version.

The Porson prize is the interest of £400 stock, to be annually employed in the purchase of one or more Greek books, to be given to such resident undergraduate as shall make the best translation of a proposed passage in Shakspeare, Ben Jonson, Massinger, or Beaumont and Fletcher, into Greek verse. The subject for the present year is Shakspeare, "Merchant of Venice," act V., scene 1: "Lorenzo—"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!" to the words "Let no such man be trusted." The metre to be *tragicum iambicum trimetrum acatalecticum*. The exercises are to be accentuated and accompanied by a literal Latin prose version.

All the above exercises are to be sent in to the Vice-Chancellor privately, before the 30th of March, 1850.

**PREFERMENTS.**—Rev. J. Adcock, to Greatham R., Lincolnshire; value £275; patron, Bishop of Lincoln. Rev. T. Jackson, Principal of the Training College, Battersea, to a Canonry in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul; patron, Bishop of London. Rev. J. Moir to the Deanery of Brechin, N.B. Rev. T. Fulcher, to Old Buckenham, P. C., Norfolk, diocese of Norwich; value £102; patrons, the inhabitants. Rev. J. H. Thompson, to Middleton P. C., Rothwell, Yorkshire. Rev. Stephen Allen, M.A., Trinity College (Dec. 7), by the Bishop of Aberdeen, to the Senior Lucubency of St. Andrew's, Aberdeen. The Rev. George Fyler Townsed, M.A., Trinity College, V. of Brantingham, Yorkshire, has been appointed Domestic Chaplain to the Duke of Northumberland. The Rev. W. C. Le Breton is appointed Dean of Jersey. The Rev. James Burrows is appointed Colonial Chaplain at the Gambia. The Rev. Reginald Robert Bradley is appointed Colonial Chaplain at the Gold Coast.

**VACANCIES.**—Belleau with Aby R., county and diocese Lincoln; value, £300; patron, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby; Rev. W. J. P. Burrell, deceased. Greenford (Great) R., Middlesex; diocese of London; value, £560, with residence; patrons, Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge; Rev. J. Tomkyns, deceased. Huntingdon St. Mary with St. Benedict R.; diocese Ely; value, £162, with residence; patron, Lord Chancellor; Rev. F. Bourdillon, resigned. Llanrhaidr-y-n-Mochnant V., Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire; diocese, St. Asaph; value, £520, with residence; patron, Bishop of St. Asaph; Rev. Walter Davies, deceased. Luton V., Beds.; diocese Ely; value, £1350, with residence; patron, John King, Esq.; Rev. W. McDonnell, deceased. Skillington V., county and diocese Lincoln; value, £105; patrons, D. and C. of Lincoln; Rev. J. Adcock, promoted. Oxford St. Cross or Holywell P. C.; value, £80; patrons, Merton College; Rev. E. M. Goulburn, promoted. Yspytly-Ivan P. C., Denbighshire; diocese St. Asaph; value, £122; patrons, Lord Mostyn and repps. of Price Jones, Esq., alt.; Rev. Walter Davies, deceased. Lincoln Grammar-School Head-Mastership; patrons, the Corporation and D. and C. of Lincoln; Rev. J. Adcock, resigned.

**ORDINATION.**—On Sunday the Lord Bishop of London held a general ordination at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, at which several gentlemen were admitted into holy orders.

**TESTIMONIALS.**—The following clergymen have recently received testimonials of esteem and affection:—The Rev. George Dover, lately perpetual curate of St. Bartholomew, Naylor-street, Liverpool, from that congregation; the Rev. Charles Henry Burton, from some of the ladies of his congregation; from the parishioners of Overton, to the Rev. Charles Severn Absalom; from the inhabitants of the united parishes of St. Mary and St. Benedict, Huntingdon, to the Rev. Francis Bourdillon; to the Rev. G. A. Hopkins, from the parishioners of Wraybury, amongst whom his ministerial labours have been exercised upwards of twenty years.

**TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. ROBERT WHISTON.**—On Thursday week, of some of the senior pupils of the Cathedral Grammar School at Rochester, being about to leave for college, and anxious to testify their esteem for their master, the Rev. R. Whiston, for his kindness to them while under his care, together with their fellow-scholars, entered into a subscription for the purpose of presenting that gentleman with a massive and valuable tea-service, manufactured by Messrs. Elkington and Company, of Birmingham, as a token of their sincere gratitude. Each piece of the service contained an inscription in Latin, of which the following is a translation:—"Presented to the Rev. Robert Whiston, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and head master of the King's School, Rochester, by his pupils, gratefully remembering the past, praying success for the future."

**THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER AND THE VICAR OF LEIGH.**—The Bishop of Manchester has issued a commission to Archdeacon Rushton and four benefited clergymen of the diocese, to inquire into certain charges preferred against the Rev. Mr. Irvine, Vicar of Leigh, under the Church Discipline Act, 3rd and 4th Victoria, c. 36, as a preliminary to further proceedings. The following are the alleged facts upon which the charges are founded:—Some weeks ago, two of Mr. Irvine's parishioners, James and Jane Turner, presented their child to him at the font to be christened, when he declined to perform the ceremony on the ground that the sponsors were not communicants of the Church. The parties, who are Dissenters, obtained the Bishop's interference, after which the child was again presented at the font on the 2nd inst., and the sponsors, acting upon advice, declined to answer the vicar's question as to their being communicants. The vicar thereupon again refused to baptize, and explained to the congregation that he did not refuse the office to the child, but only deferred it till the sponsors were in a condition to give an affirmative answer to his question. Three formal complaints have been lodged against Mr. Irvine:—The first, for having, contrary to the 68th canon, delayed the christening; the second, for having required answers from the sponsors, contrary both to the 29th and 68th canon; the third, for accompanying such delay by remarks addressed to the congregation aloud, to the disturbance of due order and solemnity in the church.

**CATASTROPHE.**—On Monday morning the family of the Rev. T. H. Davies, incumbent of Trinity Church, Nottingham, but residing at Sherwood, about two miles from that town, were horror-stricken to find, upon arising from their beds, that their two maid-servants, who the previous evening had retired to rest apparently in good health, had been discovered in their beds in a state of insensibility. The room in which they lay was filled with smoke, and in one corner was a portable fire-grate, containing some dead coals. Mr. Joseph Thompson, surgeon, was sent for, and was quickly in attendance, but one of the women, Ellen Pierce, aged about thirty years, died shortly after his arrival. The other woman, who is named English, and is also about thirty years old, has been partially restored, and hopes are entertained of her ultimate recovery. It is supposed that the coals had been lighted for the purpose of warming the room, the night being severely cold. There was a fire-place in the room, the chimney to which, however, had been stopped up by the women, in their ignorance of the consequences, to prevent the heat escaping.

**REFUSAL TO MARRY BY A CLERGYMAN.**—The *Liverpool Standard* of Tuesday last says:—"We are informed that the Government solicitor, Mr. Reynolds, instructed his agents at Liverpool to present an indictment, at the present assizes, against the Rev. Moorhouse James, M.A. (B.A. 1835), formerly of Jesus College, incumbent of Bedford, near Leigh, for refusing to marry Henry Fisher and another. The superintendent-registrar of the district was examined before the Grand Jury at Liverpool, on Wednesday, and a true bill has been returned into court. The trial will take place at the March assizes."

## RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

**THE EDINBURGH AND PERTH RAILWAY AND THE POST-OFFICE.**—In consequence of this company having declined to accede to the terms, £700 per annum, for carrying the mails over the 78 miles of their line, and requiring £1000 per annum for such service, the Post-office sent a guard as a second-class passenger to deliver and receive the mail-bags at the stations. The company have objected to this, and the Post-office authorities charge them with an attempt to impede the public service. The company offer to submit the question to arbitration, giving the Post-office in the meantime complete use of the line; but this the latter decline to consent to, and the question in all probability will be brought before a court of law.

**OXFORD, WORCESTER, AND WOLVERHAMPTON RAILWAY.**—It is stated that the Railway Commissioners have decided upon calling upon the Great Western Company to complete the above line of railway, without delay, under the provisions of the act.

**SHREWSBURY AND HEREFORD.**—At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Radnorshire, held at Knighton, last week, a series of resolutions was passed, pledging those present to use every exertion to procure the construction of this line.

**VALE OF NEATH.**—The directors, at their last meeting, determined on proceeding with the line with all speed to Aberdare, and resolved, by a majority of one, on continuing the services of Mr. Brunel, their engineer.

**NORTH-WESTERN.**—The directors announce, that, having now opened 38 miles of their line, it is not their intention for the future to pay any further interest out of capital to the holders of old stock.

**ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**—Notices of an intended application to Parliament have been given for a new telegraph company, to be called the "British Electric Telegraph Company." The extension of the telegraph to Preston is now completed.

**DOVER, HASTINGS, AND BRIGHTON COMPANY.**—The Master in Chancery Brougham has appointed Mr. J. H. Norris, accountant, of Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, to proceed with the winding-up of the affairs of this defunct undertaking.

**BORDEAUX AND CETTE, AND LYONS AND AVIGNON.**—Memorials, now being signed in the City, are about being presented to the French Government, relative to the long-existing delay in the liquidation of the caution money of these lines, in connexion with the proposed line from Paris to Avignon.

**CAMERON'S COALBROOK STEAM COAL, AND SWANSEA AND LOUGHBOROUGH.**—Dec. 27: Special Meeting: London: G. H. Winthrop, Esq., in the chair. The resolutions passed on the 10th inst. for making a call of £2 per share for meeting the liabilities of the company, and making a line of railway to connect the companies' collieries with Llanelli, were unanimously passed. It was explained that those parties who some time since paid up £1 per share (beyond the £6 called up), would be allowed to deduct it from the £2 call.

**RAILWAY CALLS FOR 1849.**—The total railway calls for this year amount to about £20,000,000; of which about £18,000,000 are for English, Irish, and Scotch, and £2,000,000 for foreign railways subscribed for in England. The total amount of railway calls in 1848 was £33,000,000, and in 1847, £42,000,000.

Mr. John Wheatcroft, C.E., one of the contractors for the High Tor tunnels at Matlock Bath, and who ably conducted the engineering department of those works, has taken the contract for the cuttings and tunnel of an extension line of railway from Crooklands to Lindal Lane, situate on the extreme border of Lancashire, and nearly adjoining Cumberland. Mr. W. has taken a number of Derbyshire miners with him to the works, and it is expected that many more will be required in the spring.

**ANOMALIES IN THE CRIMINAL LAW OF PRUSSIA.**—The late Chief Burgomaster of Brandenburg, M. Ziegler, who was a short time since condemned to six months' imprisonment and the loss of his civil rights for inciting the people to revolt by publishing the tax-refusing resolution of the National Assembly, it is present in Berlin, prosecuting an appeal against the sentence. When a sentence of imprisonment is for a short term, it is not immediately enforced; the person is set at liberty till he is summoned to begin his punishment. It is a curious anomaly of the Prussian criminal system, that a man is kept in close imprisonment when he is only suspected, and is set free when he is found guilty. The previous arrest is often reckoned as having fulfilled the sentence, though that is not the case in the present instance.

## THE WOLVERTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

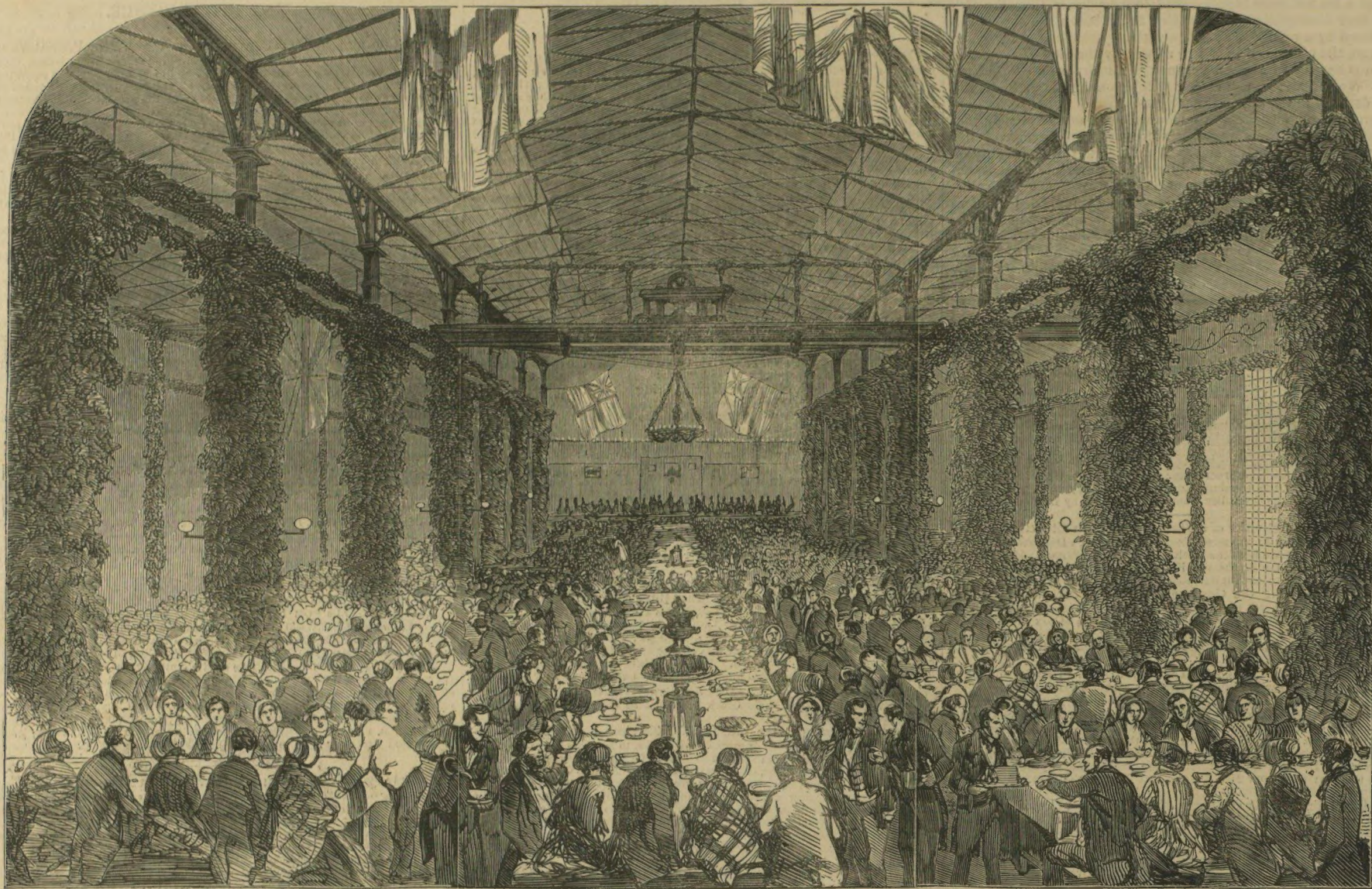
WOLVERTON, it may be known to all our readers, as it certainly is to all railway travellers, is a railway town, called into existence by the London and North-Western Company, and inhabited almost exclusively by their servants and work-people. Whatever jealousies and ill-will may exist between the employers and employed in other parts of the country, and in other trades, professions, and pursuits of life, no feeling of the kind exists at Wolverton. The Company have, for many years past, taken a friendly, if not parental, interest in the comfort and welfare of the numerous body of men whom they employ; and the workmen have repaid the care by a zealous devotion to the interest of their employers, and the assiduous discharge of their many arduous and responsible duties. It is pleasing to witness the interchange of such feelings of mutual confidence and goodwill. We only wish the case were more common, and that masters and servants, employers and employed, would universally learn to respect and care for each other. Strikes, combinations, rick-burnings, and other aggressions of labour against capital, would then cease on the one hand; and the reckless, heartless, and un-Christian system of screwing down the labourer to the starvation point (or beneath it) would cease on the other—to the mutual advantage of all classes of the community. Such a consummation is, perhaps, too much to hope for; but every good example given is an approximation towards it, deserving of the cordial support of all well-wishers of the industrial classes.

The anniversary meeting of the Wolverton Mechanics' Institution, which took place on Friday evening last, in the large Engine-room of the Station, and which has led us to make these few preliminary observations, was in every respect an interesting celebration. The Company, having built a church and schools for their work-people, followed up their good work by a handsome donation to the Mechanics' Institution. Though established for nine years, or upwards, the last-named institution had not in any respect proved so successful as to satisfy the wishes of its founders; and it was, therefore, resolved this year to add its funds by a public entertainment or *soirée*, to which all the members, with their wives and families, should be invited, together with such influential persons from the neighbourhood, or from London, as could be induced, in their love for the cause of education, and the self-elevation of the working-classes, to lend it their countenance. The arrangements were chiefly planned, we believe, by Mr. J. E. MacConnell, the superintendent of the locomotive department for the southern division of the railway, whose headquarters are at Wolverton. The directors granted the use of the large engine-room for the occasion, which, being cleared of its usual contents—of forges, and engines in course of construction or repair—was laid out for the accommodation of a very magnificent tea-party of fifteen hundred persons. The guests, amounting to at least that number, had assembled by six o'clock, and made a very gay and very happy-looking picture. The room was brilliantly lighted with gas, which, at every convenient corner, was twisted into stars and crowns, initials and cornucopias. The large pillars and joists were festooned with laurel and other evergreens; and flags waved and dangled from all parts of the room over the heads of the assembled spectators and guests. The London celebrities that attended the meeting were not so numerous as they might have been, for, besides the chairman, Mr. G. C. Glyn, M.P., and other directors and officials of the railway, there were none of any note, with the exception of Mr. George Cruikshank and Mr. Charles Mackay. The chair of the meeting was taken by Mr. MacConnell. We have no intention to reproduce any report of the speeches made upon the occasion; but some of the railway statistics may with advantage be cited to show, not simply the greatness of the undertaking, and the simplicity and regularity of its working, but the good understanding between employers and employed, to which we have already adverted; and the continued existence of which is so essential, not alone to the interest of railway proprietors, but to the convenience and safety of the travelling public. Mr. MacConnell stated that 500 mechanics were constantly employed at Wolverton. The character of these people was, he said, most exemplary: they conducted themselves peaceably and orderly at all times, and manifested the best of dispositions for their own elevation—religious, moral, and intellectual, and for the education of their children. Captain Hulsh, the secretary of the company, stated that on the line rather more than 10,000 men were constantly employed; 140,000 passengers were carried along the line every week, carrying with them about half-a-million of portmanteaus and band-boxes; and when he reminded them that a great portion of these were ladies, who almost invariably left everything behind them, they would see how much the company were indebted to pay for lost luggage, and he further reminded them that since the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, one hundred millions of passengers had been carried over the London and North-Western line, and, with the exception of the melancholy accident which happened only a few paces from the spot where he was standing, he might say there had scarcely been an accident on the company's line. This was the more remarkable, as there were no fewer than 900 policemen employed, carelessness on the part of any one of whom might produce a fatal accident.

These facts are highly creditable to the management of the railway, and no less creditable to the army of industry which they employ. Mr. Glyn, the chairman of the company, took occasion, in the course of the evening, to deprecate the unfair criticism to which railways and their management were subjected by an influential portion of the press; and complained of the injustice of submitting to the same indiscriminate abuse the men who carried on these great undertakings for legitimate commercial ends, and the men who had abused their position as trustees of the property of others, and had worked railways for their private objects, without a thought of the public, or of those proprietors whom they sacrificed. Mr. Glyn may, however, rest assured that the public is wiser than such newspapers, and that it fully appreciates the talents, energy, and public spirit of men like himself, who have matured the railway system, and brought it to its present perfection.

After the company had listened for a time sufficiently long to the speechification provided for the amusement of the male part of the auditory, the doors of





THE WOLVERTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SOIREE.

another large room, similarly lighted and ornamented, were thrown open for the amusement of the fairer and more interesting portion of the guests. Dancing commenced shortly after ten o'clock, and was kept up until we know not what hour in the morning. The whole of the proceedings gave the greatest satisfaction to all concerned; and we trust the result will be sufficiently productive to warrant the repetition of the festivities upon another anniversary.

#### GALLANT CAPTURE OF A SLAVER, BY H.M.S. "RATTLER."

(From a Correspondent.)

THROUGH the kindness of a friend, I am enabled to transmit the accompanying Sketch of the *Rattler* in pursuit of the notorious piratical slave schooner, *Andorinha*, on the western coast of Africa. As a brief account of the chase, capture, and previous history of this remarkable vessel may not prove uninteresting to your readers, I subjoin a few particulars.

At five o'clock on the morning of the 5th of August, a strange and suspicious-looking vessel was descried from the mast-head of the *Rattler*, which, upon being carefully scrutinized, was pronounced to be a large fore-and-aft schooner, under easy sail. Orders were immediately issued to get up the steam, make all sail, give chase, &c. Scarcely, however, had a part of the orders been complied with, than the movement was observed by the stranger, and the example promptly followed. An animated contest ensued, the crews of both, doubtless, being influenced by very different feelings. The breeze now freshened, and thereby considerably favoured the pretensions of the slaver. Notwithstanding, we gained upon her, but almost imperceptibly.

About two o'clock we were nearly within gun-shot of her, when—alas! how uncertain are the things of this life!—a dense mist set in, which obscured the whole horizon, and rendered her for a time invisible. Before the lapse of many minutes, however, she was again sighted by the officer of the watch; and as we had by this time gained so much upon her as to bring her within the range of our guns, we discharged three rounds from a sixty-eight pounder, the last of which, having fallen in rather dangerous proximity to her stern, caused her to heave to, after a most interesting and exciting chase of nine hours' duration.

Thus terminated the career of a vessel whose success is without a parallel in the annals of this revolting traffic. In the early part of the chase, and when the issue of the struggle appeared doubtful, she cast adrift her only boat, unshackled her cable, which she let go with her anchor, and had recourse to every other

measure which was in the slightest degree calculated to increase her buoyancy and facilitate her escape. Sixty stand of musketry and several cutlasses were thrown overboard likewise, which circumstance tends to the supposition that the crew was well prepared, ay, and determined, too, to resist the attack of a less formidable opponent than the *Rattler*. This vessel was manned by a motley crew, consisting of 39 cut-throat looking fellows, exclusive of her commander, who was a Brazilian of note, and a Spaniard of distinction, nominally as a passenger.

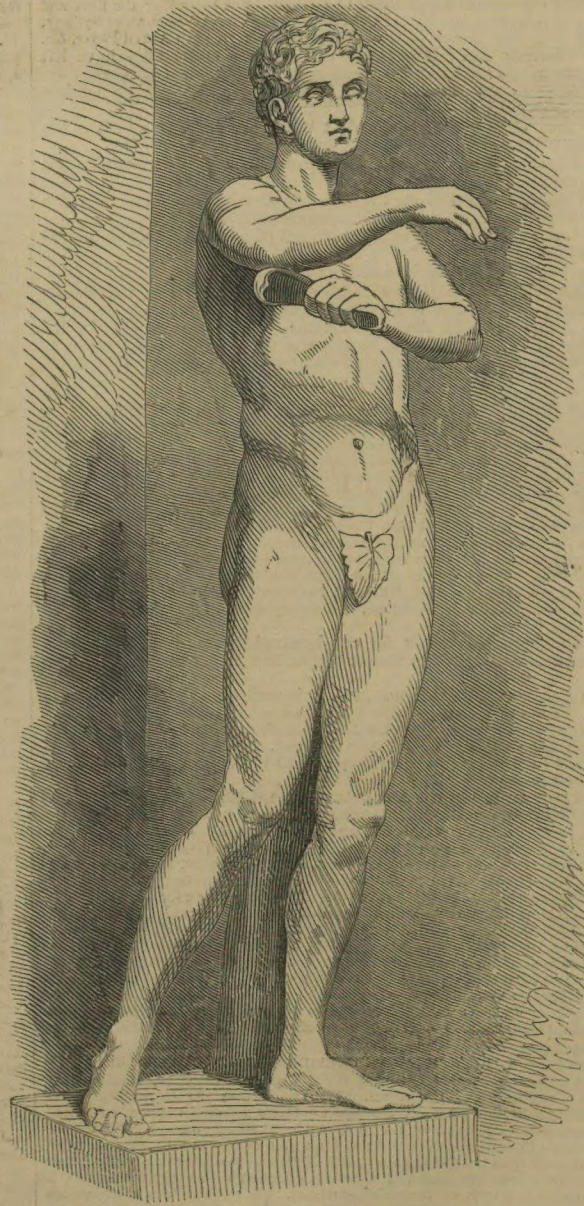
It was subsequently ascertained that this large American-built schooner, which exceeded 200 tons burden, had made eleven successful trips, and had treble that number of escapes. She had been chased from time to time by most of the English and other cruisers stationed in the Bight of Benin, including some of our fastest sailing-vessels, and a few steamers, whose pretensions she did not appear disposed to recognise. This, it appears, was to have been her last voyage; and, in the event of her escaping, the proprietors contemplated erecting her into a model for their future guidance in architecture.

#### GREEK STATUE RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN ROME.

This beautiful work of ancient art was recently discovered in the excavations of the *Vicolo della Palme*, in *Trastevere* (Palm-lane, beyond the Tiber), in Rome. It is supposed to be the statue described by Pliny in the thirty-fourth book of his "Natural History," the production of Lisippus, and is esteemed little inferior to the Apollo and other masterpieces of Grecian sculpture.

The figure—that of an *athleta*, or wrestler—is semi-colossal in size. The head is a little less than the regular proportion, and in that respect only the statue comes within the class of the *beau ideal*; but the brow covers the eye well, the short upper lip is full of resolution, the general expression is one of calm determination, and the snake head of the pugilist is instantly recognised. The foot is ungracefully long, though it is sculptured with the minutest care; and the calf is diminished in proportion to the length of the foot. This is an anatomical truth, but it appears almost a blemish in the figure, and the high-blooded refinements of a small foot and hand are rejected, possibly as inappropriate to the profession of the athlete. The feet and legs may indeed be termed ugly, and the whole skill of the sculptor has evidently been devoted to the upper part of the statue. The attitude of the figure is of extreme simplicity. The wrestler, scraping off the perspiration occasioned by a recent struggle, or by exercise, extends the right arm, holding a die between the index and thumb of the same hand, as if about to decide by

chance the time and place of a combat. A smile of confidence is slightly perceptible on the lips, while the bent brow announces a haughty triumph. The left hand holds the *strigil*, with which he scrapes off the perspiration from the right arm: thus the upright position of the whole person is preserved, whilst



STATUE RECENTLY FOUND IN THE TRASTEVERE, AT ROME.

the body, slightly inclined on the left hip, allows the play of the muscles to be seen, and the anatomy of the back to be exhibited in the most brilliant manner. A piece of stone which supported the extended arm was found broken; and from it, and the grain of the whole mass, we can judge that the statue is of the finest Parian marble: this adds to the evidence afforded by the Greek outline of the face, and the perfection of the limbs, that the statue was produced during the golden age of art, and by one of the most eminent masters. It is said that several drawings of a similar work exist, and that its outlines have been more than once repeated in Etruscan vases; but this is the only marble known of this particular form. The enthusiastic admirers who crowd to see it every day assert that it was fully described by Pliny, and that the Emperor Tiberius was so enchanted by its beauty that he caused it to be removed from the baths of Agrippa, where it originally stood, to his own palace.



CAPTURE OF A BRAZILIAN SLAVER BY H.M.S. "RATTLER," OFF LAGOS.



## ROYAL ACADEMY PRIZES.



HISTORICAL COMPOSITION IN PAINTING, BY J. A. VINTER.—"AN ACT OF MERCY"—BLANCHE OF CASTILE, QUEEN REGENT OF FRANCE, LIBERATING THE PRISONERS CONFINED BY THE CHAPTER OF PARIS, IN 1512.

On Monday, the 10th instant (the anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Academy), took place the triennial distribution of the premiums for original compositions in Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, competed for by the students of the Institution. The number of prizes given was greater than usual, the powers of the competitors being more nearly balanced. We have engraved the prizes for Historical

Composition in Painting, and for Architectural Design; for each of which a gold medal was awarded.

We have much pleasure in engraving the "Painting"—not merely as the successful picture, and the best of the three in competition; but from the promise it gives of future excellence on the part of the painter, Mr. J. A. Vinter. The subject given was "An Act of Mercy;" and

the artist has chosen in illustration thereof, an incident in Sismondi's "History of France"—Blanche, of Castile, Queen Regent of France, releasing the prisoners confined by the Chapter of Paris, A.D. 1512. In its treatment, the painter has exercised considerable judgment; the simple, yet graceful action of the Queen contrasts finely with the eager, careworn forms of the unhappy prisoners, who, with upturned



ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, BY MR. ARTHUR ALLOM.



heads and anxious looks, supplicate the aid of the fair being whose errand of mercy has brought her to their dismal prison. No less worthy of commendation is the stalwart figure of the soldier who is removing the fetters from the legs of one of the prisoners in the foreground. The chiaroscuro of the picture is broad and effective, and the colouring of a subdued richness but seldom met with in works from so young a hand.

The other compositions for this Medal were "Adam and Eve" (a scene from Genesis, chap. iii. v. 31), and "Christ casting out the Evil Spirits." The Architectural Prize was awarded to Mr. Arthur Allom, for his "Design for a National Gallery," or an embellished adaptation of the present unsatisfactory edifice. Mr. Allom's work is elegant and harmonious, and remarkably well drawn. Amongst the recipients of Silver Medals was Mr. A. F. Young, for the best drawings of the south portico of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The subject of the Gold Medal for Historical Sculpture—a bas-relief—was "The Rape of Proserpine." This prize was awarded to Mr. E. J. Physick, jun.—printed "Phissick" in our Journal of the 15th. The model represents Pluto carrying Proserpine out of the garden; a reclining figure before him in vain endeavours to stay his progress; whilst another from behind has essayed her strength by seizing Pluto on the shoulder. In the distance, Cupid is seen urging on the horses belonging to the chariot into which Pluto is in the act of stepping. Altogether, this is a very pleasing and delicate composition.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The *Royal Sovereign* yacht, lately bearing the Commodore-Superintendent's broad pendant at Pembroke, is being broken up at that port, where another frigate of 60 guns, to be named the *Innomitté*, has been laid down. The building of the *Valorous*, steam-frigate, is rapidly proceeding at the same yard.

**INSPECTING FIELD OFFICER, GLASGOW.**—Lieutenant-Colonel Slade, 90th Foot, is named as likely to succeed the late Lieutenant-Colonel Barnwell in this staff appointment.

**THE TROOPS IN THE PUNJAB, BENGAL, AND BOMBAY.**—The reliefs for the armies of Bengal and Bombay are out. The Punjab is to be garrisoned exclusively by Bengal troops. No extra allowances are to be made to those serving within the country of the Five Rivers, except they are employed on the extreme frontier beyond the Indus. In Bengal the relief involves the movement of 22 regiments of cavalry, 59 of native and 3 of British infantry; in Bombay, of 3 regiments of cavalry, 3 of European and 20 of native infantry; or, a grand total of 85 regiments of infantry and 25 of cavalry, besides upwards of 30 troops and companies of artillery. This entails an extra charge of £600 a month for each regiment on the march; and, as the average over all is probably about 50 marches, the move will cost about £30,000. The station of Mhow, now held by Bengal troops, is to be made over to Madras, those of Neemuch and Nusseerabad to Bombay. The present relief is one of the most extensive that has ever occurred in the army. The order for the distribution of six months' batta to the troops who took part in the Punjab campaign has been issued; it is to be payable on and after Jan. 1, 1850.

**NAVAL PROMOTIONS AND PENSIONS.**—By the death of Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Collier, C.B., the following promotions take place:—Rear-Admiral of the Blue, Manley Hall Dixon, to be Rear-Admiral of the White; Captain Fairfax Moresby, C.B., to be Rear-Admiral of the Blue. Captain Sir H. M. Blackwood attains the half-pay of 14s. 6d. per diem, and Captain H. D. Trotter the half-pay of 12s. 6d. per diem. A good service pension becomes vacant on the promotion of Captain (now Rear-Admiral) Moresby; as well as a Companionship of the Bath, by the demise of Sir Francis Collier. The two Captains' good service pensions vacant by the promotions of Rear-Admirals Sir David Dunn and Fairfax Moresby, C.B., have been conferred on Captain John Hindmarsh, K.H. (1831), and Captain Sir James Clark Ross (1834). The following promotions are consequent on the death of Admiral Lord Colville:—The Right Hon. James Marquis of Thomond, G.C.H., Admiral of the Blue, to be Admiral of the White; Sir George Mundy, K.C.B., Vice-Admiral of the Red, to be Admiral of the Blue; Sir Charles Bullen, K.C.B., G.C.H., Vice-Admiral of the White, to be Vice-Admiral of the Red; the Hon. Frederick William Aylmer, C.B., Vice-Admiral of the Blue, to be Vice-Admiral of the White; John Ayscough, Esq., Rear-Admiral of the Red, to be Vice-Admiral of the Blue; Charles Gordon, Esq., C.B., Rear-Admiral of the White, to be Rear-Admiral of the Red; the Hon. Alexander Jones, Rear-Admiral of the Blue, to be Rear-Admiral of the White; the Right Hon. George Anson Lord Byron, Captain (1814), to be Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

The Master-General of the Ordnance has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant-Colonel Warde to the command of the Royal Artillery at Malta.

**THE CHINA STATION.**—The appointment of Commander-in-Chief of the India and China squadrons, vacant by the death of Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Collier, it is said will be conferred upon Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Fleetwood Broughton Reynolds Pellew, C.B., K.C.H.

**THE 3RD DRAGON GUARDS.**—We have reason to believe that all differences have been made up in this regiment, and that Col. Arthur is to continue in the command.

**ANOTHER NORTH-WEST EXPEDITION.**—Reports are rife that an expedition, to be promoted and set on foot by private enterprise, is to be got up, and the direction of it is to be given to the veteran Sir John Ross, who still boasts of his vigour and capability of withstanding the rigours of an ice campaign. This expedition is to push forward through Barrow's Straits to Wellington Sound and Melville Island. Whether this report will be verified or not, remains to be seen.

**MILITARY LAW.**—Assistant-Surgeon Douglas, of the 26th (Cameronian) Regiment, has been acquitted of all the charges brought against him in his recent court-martial. He has been in arrest from the 11th of September to the 19th of December. The court-martial terminated its proceedings on the 2nd of November, and, consequently, the assistant-surgeon had been seven weeks in arrest before the trial was over, and has been seven weeks more in arrest since his acquittal.

**CHEAP WAR-STEAMERS.**—Her Majesty's steam-sloop *Devastation*, that had a thorough repair a few years since, after which she had been in commission about two years and a half, has been under repair in dock at Portsmouth for one year. Taking the cost of dock accommodation at £20 a day, which is cheaper than the Government charge to the merchant service, it will amount to £6700.

**OFFICIAL APPRECIATION OF GOOD SERVICE.**—We have much gratification in announcing that the Lords of the Admiralty, appreciating the immense labours of Mr. William O'Byrne, in his most efficient compilation of his "Naval Biographical Dictionary," comprising the life and services of every living officer in her Majesty's Navy, from the rank of Admiral of the Fleet to that of Lieutenant-inclusive, have presented him with an acknowledgment of £100.

## NATIONAL SPORTS.

The movements in the coursing districts since our last have been barren of interest; and steeple-chasing, owing to the postponement of the Banwell meeting to Friday—the only event for decision next week—has been altogether "blank." The "long tail" gatherings in the ensuing week will be confined to the Lambourn on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Aske on Wednesday; the former, from its "approachability," and the celebrity of the coursing ground in the neighbourhood, will repay the trouble and expense of the journey.

### TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—Notwithstanding it was Christmas Eve, a fair amount of business was transacted at the under-mentioned cups.

CHESTER CUP.			
50 to 1 agst Lismahago (t)	66 to 1 agst Danmark (t)	100 to 1 agst Giselle (t)	
50 to 1 — Essardius	183 to 1 — Idle Boy (t)	100 to 1 — Thringarth (t)	
50 to 1 — Douch	100 to 1 — Robur (t)	100 to 1 — Chatterer (t)	
66 to 1 — Malton (t)	100 to 1 — Cadger (t)	100 to 1 — Cadger (t)	
66 to 1 — Velox (t)	100 to 1 — Cockermouth (t)	100 to 1 — Snowstorm (t)	
TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS STAKES.			
2 to 1 agst Bee Hunter		20 to 1 agst Ghio (t)	
DERBY.			
17 to 2 agst Bollingbroke	20 to 1 agst Veligour (t)	50 to 1 agst Hardinge	
11 to 1 — Gillie Callum	25 to 1 — Sweetheart	50 to 1 — Windbound (t)	
11 to 1 — Knight of Avenel	28 to 1 — John-o'-Groat	66 to 1 — Yew Tree (t)	
16 to 1 — The Italian	30 to 1 — Wm the Conqueror	100 to 1 — Bro to Dough (t)	
17 to 1 — The Nigger	30 to 1 — Mavors (t)	120 to 1 — Fythton	
	66 to 1 agst Auctorite (t)		

THURSDAY.—Business was too slack and uninteresting to require a formal quotation; we shall, therefore, content ourselves with an enumeration of the bets:—

CHESTER CUP.			
1000 to 20 agst Chanteller; 1000 to 15 agst Idle Boy, Lady Evelyn, and Melody; and 1000 to 10 agst Emma, Horn of Chase, Cockermouth, and Sir Richard.			
DERBY.			
450 to 50 agst Bollingbroke	1000 to 40 agst Sweetheart		
600 to 50 — Gillie Callum	20 to 1 to 550 agst The Nigger		

The Spelthorne Coursing Club had a meeting at Marlborough Downs last week. To Mr. Long and Mr. Gundry many thanks are due for their kindness and liberality. Mr. J. R. Lawrence gave unexceptionable satisfaction, in his decisions as Judge.

Measures are being taken and subscriptions entered into by some influential houses in Manchester and its immediate neighbourhood, with a view to obtain an expression of public opinion in that district in favour of a reduction of the duties on tea; and supported, by this expression of public opinion, it is intended to take early steps to obtain the sanction of the Legislature for reductions so necessary to the comfort of our home population and the prosperity of our eastern trade.

## COUNTRY NEWS.

**LIABILITY OF RAILWAY COMPANIES.**—At Birmingham a public meeting was held last week—the Mayor in the chair—on the subject of a claim for compensation made by an eminent surgical operator of that town against the Midland Railway Company for an operation performed upon a man who sustained an injury on this line of railway, and which claim the railway company has successfully resisted. The facts of the case were these:—Early in the year 1847, a poor man, named Higgins, was journeying on the Midland Railway by one of the night trains. There was no third-class carriage attached as there should have been by this train, and Higgins was directed to get into a goods truck; in doing this, from the inconvenience of the carriage and the train being set in motion, he fell down, and his leg was frightfully fractured by the train passing over it. Messrs. Davies, surgeons, of Colehill, which is about two miles from the Whitacre station, where the accident occurred, were sent for, but they declared themselves unable to cope with the case, and expressed an opinion that the man would die if no operation were performed. Messrs. Davies, in this extreme emergency, suggested that an eminent consulting and operating surgeon should be called in from Birmingham. Fortunately for the sufferer, but most unfortunately for himself, recourse was had to Mr. Sands Cox, the Dean of Faculty at Queen's College. Without a moment's hesitation he left his bed and his home in the middle of a most inclement winter's night, travelled to Colehill, operated with success, watched over the case, and, in a word, saved the man's life by his promptitude, decision, and great ability. For this service Mr. Cox sent in his charge of £27 6s., being twenty guineas for the operation and six guineas for attendances. The Midland Company refused to pay, averring that all the surgeons' and innkeepers' charges were included in the £150 which they paid to Higgins for the loss of his limb. Mr. Cox brought an action, which was tried before Mr. Justice Maule, at Warwick, at the Midsummer Assizes, 1848, and a verdict returned for the plaintiff, subject to a point of law to be decided by the court above as to the company's liability. At the trial Mr. Justice Maule sarcastically remarked that if railway companies were to resist such claims, they had better stick up a notice at every station to the effect, that if any accident occurred, they would not pay the doctor. In the following term the case was argued in the Court of Exchequer, and Mr. Baron Parke delivered a judgment, turning on some technical point, to the effect that the defendants were not liable. The effect of this decision has been to mulct Mr. Cox in some £250 legal expenses, exclusive of any charge on the part of his own solicitor, who acted gratuitously in the matter. The meeting was for the purpose of entering into a subscription to reimburse Mr. Cox, who has devoted his useful life to the promotion of the most benevolent objects, and sacrificed all the advantages of his splendid talents as an operating surgeon to the rearing of hospitals and colleges for the comfort of the needy and the assistance of the deserving. All these facts were adverted to by the different speakers, and letters were read from the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Lyttelton, Mr. Adderley, M.P., and other noblemen and gentlemen in all parts of the country, expressive of their concurrence in the object of this meeting, and their disapprobation of the conduct of the railway company. The result was, that a resolution was unanimously passed to enter into a subscription for the purpose of reimbursing Mr. Cox. In addition to this, the Messrs. Davies, of Colehill, who completed the cure of the poor man's leg, have never received a farthing in the shape of remuneration, but have been put to heavy expenses for the costs of an action at law; and the poor innkeeper, who received the sufferer, and tended him for months, has an execution put into his house for the company's costs.

**DRAINAGE OF LODMOOR, NEAR WEYMOUTH.**—Preliminary steps are being taken for the purpose of reclaiming and draining this extensive waste, which is now wholly under water. Independently of the advantages which would arise from carrying out such a measure in an agricultural point of view, it is considered it would be of great benefit to Weymouth in improving its sanitary condition, for during the prevalence of northerly winds in the dry seasons the miasmatic influences are wafted towards the town, and must, under the circumstances, have a prejudicial effect. An engineer, who has been employed in similar operations, has been engaged to report as to the best means of accomplishing this desirable object.—*Salsbury Herald.*

**PORT OF FLEETWOOD.**—The Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury having been pleased to constitute Fleetwood, at present a sub-port of Preston, a separate and independent port of the supernumerary class, the Commissioners of the Customs have directed that the privilege granted to Fleetwood take effect from and after the 5th day of January next; and that the same be communicated to the collectors, and comptrollers, and other principal officers of the customs department at the several ports and places throughout the kingdom, for their information and future guidance.

**THE LATE FIRE AT BELPER.**—The extensive and destructive fire at Messrs. Ward's warehouse, at Belper, will not interrupt their business, the whole of which will be carried on as heretofore. The stock was insured for £25,000, the building for £3500. The surveyor of the Norwich Union office was at Belper on Thursday (last week), and agreed to pay the amount of insurance upon the stock; the settlement with regard to the buildings is postponed until an estimate has been made. The loss to the firm over and above the insurance will be £7000.

**DESPERATE OUTRAGE.**—On Sunday evening, Bristol was the scene of a shocking murder—a mere youth of about fifteen years old, named Alfred Dancy, who was in the employ of Mr. Thomas Prowse, surgeon, of Guinea-street, having shot with a pistol a young man nineteen years old, a light porter at the spirit warehouse of Mr. Gillet, Redcliff-street, named William Braund. The circumstances are stated to be, that on Sunday afternoon Dancy and a boy named Collins were leaping a post at the corner of Bedminster-parade, when the deceased, with two young men, named Coggan and Organ, had occasion to pass them, and as they did so, Organ said to Dancy, who was jumping the post, "Now, then, over it." Upon this both boys became very abusive, and followed the young men, upon which Organ turned back after them and struck Collins, who immediately drew a life-preserver from him, as Dancy did a pistol. Organ then left them, but they still followed jeering and abusing, and Collins again brandished his life-preserver. Braund said he would tell his mother of his conduct, and tried to take the weapon from him, and a struggle ensued, in the course of which both fell into the road. Dancy then said he would shoot Braund, and made several attempts to get at him, but was prevented by Organ. At length he deliberately cocked his pistol, and, rushing up to Braund, shot him in the side. The poor fellow staggered, fell, and almost immediately expired, the ball having entered the right side between the ribs, passed completely through the lungs, glanced upwards through the windpipe, and finally lodged in the ribs at the back of the left shoulder, carrying with it a portion of the coat of the deceased. Dancy ran away, but was pursued and taken. He savagely threw the pistol at one of his pursuers, and, on being captured, coolly remarked that he should be "scragged," he supposed. He afterwards said the pistol was only loaded with shot, and went off at half-cock, but the bullet has been found in the body; and a bullet-mould and several other bullets were found in the prisoner's pocket.—An inquest was held on the body on Monday and Tuesday, when the evidence having clearly established the prisoner's guilt, the jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Alfred Dancy; and he was committed on the Coroner's warrant to take his trial for the capital offence.

**STRIKES ON THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.**—A series of strikes, of various classes of workmen employed by the Midland Railway Company, have for some time been pending, and at length the goods guards and porters have ceased work at every principal station, thereby putting an entire stop to the goods traffic throughout the lines. The strike at Derby station commenced on Monday morning, and was so universal that all the goods sheds were instantly closed, and it was found impossible to collect together hands sufficient to send off even one luggage train, although a great variety of parcels and packages, some of which contained articles of an extremely perishable nature, required forwarding to their destinations without delay. This general cessation from labour is owing to the directors reducing the wages of one class of men—the goods guards—from 19s. to 17s. weekly, and of goods porters from 17s. to 16s. The strikes commenced at Nottingham about a fortnight ago, when four men threw up their situations rather than submit to the reduction. The knowledge of this was immediately communicated to their fellow-labourers in every direction, and more general strikes followed at Leeds, Bradford, and Derby. The engine-drivers and firemen, until within the last few days, have also been upon the eve of striking, in consequence of the directors wanting them to travel three journeys at the same rate of wages they have hitherto received for two journeys; but they were too unanimous amongst themselves to be forced to submit to the new terms. They are 203 in number, and all, except three, would have struck within six hours had not the company consented to allow the old engagements to remain in force. As soon as danger from the pending strike appeared to be over, Mr. G. B. Paget brought down a number of new men to displace the ring-leaders; but their comrades were true to their friends, and threatened to leave in a body at a moment's notice if even one were dismissed for taking part in the movement. The consequence has been that not one man has been discharged. Mr. G. B. Paget, in addressing the men, urged upon them to accept the reduction, the very low price of provisions well enabling them to do so; and he promised, if they would, that, as the price of food rose at any future time, he would see that their rate of remuneration was increased. On Wednesday the goods guards and porters at Derby, some hundreds in number, returned to their employment, the former at their original rate of remuneration, and the latter for the present at reduced wages, but with a promise of an advance whenever the price of food becomes higher. Although the directors strained every nerve, from Monday morning until Tuesday night, they found themselves unable to carry on their business without the assistance of their old goods guards; but, by extensive importations of agricultural labourers, who for many miles around may be had for very little remuneration, they had pretty nearly swamped the more humble class of goods porters, and they have been compelled to seek and accept a compromise. The policemen and pointsmen, who a week or two ago had their salaries reduced 5 per cent., and who were so scattered in small numbers along the whole extent of the various lines to act in concert, have petitioned the board to restore to them the small modicum which, they say, without their consent, has been stopped out of their weekly wages, and declare their intention of giving up their situations simultaneously if their petition be not complied with. Should this really occur, the greatest danger to the company's traffic will be the result; so much property and so many lives constantly depending upon the discretion of these officials, especially of the pointsmen.

A very large grey eagle was taken alive, in the front area of Mr. Waddington's mansion (facing due north), on the Marine-terrace, Margate, about 6 P.M., on Wednesday last. The gigantic bird is a native of the Orkney Islands, and must have travelled direct nearly 900 miles.

## EARL FITZWILLIAM ON AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION.

A county meeting of landlords, tenant-farmers, and others, was held on Saturday last in the Literary Institution at Huntingdon, to take into consideration the present distressed state of the agricultural and other interests of the county, and the propriety of adopting a loyal and dutiful address to the Queen, praying her Majesty to dissolve the present Parliament, for the purpose of affording to her loyal subjects the opportunity of electing as their representatives in the House of Commons members who will support the principle of just and equal protection to every class of the community against foreign competition.

Amongst the landowners of the county who were present on the occasion, but who took no part in the proceedings, were the Hon. Octavius Duncombe, M.P., James Rush, Esq. (chairman of the quarter sessions), Colonel Linton, George Thornhill, jun., Esq., David Vesey, Esq., Dawson Rowley, Esq., George Rush, Esq., George Rowley, Esq., Colonel Dabery, &c. There were also present Mr. Fellows, M.P., Mr. Thornhill, M.P., Professor Pryme, &c.

Upon the chair being taken by the Sheriff, Mr. G. Brighty, a tenant-farmer, moved the first resolution, viz.:—That the agricultural and other great interests of the country are at the present time involved in difficulty and distress, almost without precedent, and from which no relief can be expected until the Free-trade policy, to which their condition is attributable, shall be abandoned, and a system of just Protection to domestic interests against foreign competition be substituted.

Mr. Lancaster (a tenant-farmer) seconded the motion. The Sheriff, before putting the question on the resolution, asked if any other person at the meeting wished to speak upon it?

The Earl Fitzwilliam, who occupied a seat on the platform, said he could not permit the resolution to pass without expressing an opinion as to the proposition involved in it. In the first place, he begged to assure them of the entire respect entertained by him for the gentlemen who had called this meeting. He looked upon that as a convocation of the tenantry of the county, and he begged to express the respect he entertained for that class of his fellow-countrymen. (Hear.) He himself belonged to another class in the county—he considered himself, and others who were in the same class with himself, as pensioners on the industry of those who were their tenants. (Cheers.) It was from the industry and the employment of their capital by the tenantry that they (the landlords) derived their income. (Cheers.) They (the landlords) were pensioners on the tenantry; and the rich tenantry, as the tenantry were comparatively rich—tenantry and landlords alike were pensioners on the toil of the industrious labourer. (Hear, hear.) There were, however, districts of the empire in which the landlords did not enjoy that popularity which he trusted they did in this part of England; and they must attribute that to the deep conviction on the minds of millions of the inhabitants of the country that the legislation which gave to them the Corn-law was not intended for the benefit of the whole, but of a class. That conviction, he assured them, was entertained. (Cries of "Oh, oh.") He knew that the proposition affirmed in that resolution was that Free-Trade was the cause of the distress now felt by the agricultural class. ("Hear," and cries of "It is.") Ay, that was the question. What they had to prove was this—was that true? Mr. Brighty had referred to the immense importation of corn that had taken place last year; that it amounted to 9,000,000 quarters. There was exaggeration, he thought, in that statement; but let him take Mr. Brighty at his word (and still he thought he was mistaken); but, considering that there was no mistake (whereas his own belief was that it was not half that quantity)—but, whether it was 4,000,000 or 9,000,000, what was it brought here for, or what was it apprehensive of? (A person in the crowd said, "Because the farmer here is obliged to feed pigs with his own corn.") Now, he was very sorry to hear the gentleman in the crowd say that; however, he was afraid that if it were so, the gentleman did not produce very good corn. This he was quite sure of, that no one fed his pigs on very good corn, for, though the average might be 34s. or 35s., that did not mean the price of the very best corn. (Cries of "Hear, hear," and "Yes, yes.") If they looked to the price of foreign corn, they would see that in the Danzic market corn was 39s. the quarter. Now, they might feel perfectly sure, with that price of corn in Danzic, a person did not bring his corn from Danzic to England to get only 35s. It was because the corn had what was so much better a price in England than abroad, that it was brought from abroad. It could not, then, be true that the best English corn had no higher price than 35s. It was not a priced corn on which the English people would feed. (Cries of "It is.") Why, the gentleman who said that did not seem to know the difference between an average price and the highest price. A person in the crowd: It is the highest price in this country.

Earl Fitzwilliam: This country had its produce like every other country, good and bad; but now the question for them to consider was, whether or not the people of England would conform to their desires. What, he asked them, was the case with them under Protection? They expected something under Protection which they had not when they were without Protection. They had now an average of 35s. the quarter. Well, what was it they wanted? Was it the law of 1815? He wanted to know what they did want. Was it the law of 1815? (Cries of "No, no.") Then what was it they wanted? (Loud cries of "Protection.") Protection was a very vague term, and he very much doubted whether gentlemen knew what they wanted. (Several persons in the body of the meeting said they wanted the Protection given by the law previous to 1842.) Then that was the law of 1828. (A farmer on the platform said "No.") Yes, the law previous to 1842 was that of 1828.

A Tenant-farmer: No, my Lord.

Earl Fitzwilliam: Indeed it was. He would suggest to gentlemen not to contradict unless they were quite sure they were in the right. It was, he maintained, the law previous to 1842. Now, was it that they wanted? He paused for a reply. He had no reply, then. In pity and compassion for them—

A Tenant-farmer on the platform, who stood beside Earl Fitzwilliam: I for one, my Lord, would wish for the law of 1828. The tenant-farmers do not want either your pity or compassion. (Cheers.)

The Earl Fitzwilliam understood, then, that what they wanted was the sliding-scale. Now, let them look to the working of the law of 1828. Let them see what happened in the year 1835 under that law. In that year the average was precisely the same average as that of which they were now complaining.

A Tenant-farmer: Yes, but it was a most abundant year. (Cheers.)

The Earl Fitzwilliam: Well, and so of the last year; it was a most abundant year. (Cries of "No, no.") Then he would not deal in positive affirmations; but this he would say, not that it was most abundant, but that it was one of the most abundant ever known.

A Tenant-farmer: Then how came the imports to be so large, if it were such an abundant year? (Cheers.)

The Earl Fitzwilliam said he would tell them how. Did they, he asked them, recollect the state of things that prevailed in the early part of the year 1847, and when there was a general complaint that the price of corn was getting up above 100s. a quarter? (Cries of "That was the work of speculators.") And the reason, then, why they had such very great imports was the very high price of corn in England in 1847. Now, he wished to know what it was they wanted to have. (Cries of "A fixed duty to help the revenue, and protection to native industry.") He admitted that the revenue derived from foreign corn was not so high as they might have; but as to their now going back, the thing was utterly impossible. (Loud cries of "Why not go back?") Why not go back? because—

A Tenant-farmer: Because the king of the West Riding says we shall not. (Cheers and laughter.)

The Earl Fitzwilliam: No; it was not because the king of the West Riding said so—and of him he must say that he thought the gentleman had been talking a great deal too much; for, in his opinion, that gentleman was a class legislator—(Hear, hear)—but the reason that he said it would be impossible was, that the great mass of public opinion would render it impossible.

A Tenant-farmer: What objection could there be to try the sense of the people? (Cheers.)

The Earl Fitzwilliam asked, in such a case, what would they do themselves? (Cries of "Turn out those opposed to Protection.") But then neither in that county nor in Lincolnshire could they get members more in accordance with their views than they had at present. All they would do would be to displace the very persons who were acting on the very principles they themselves desired them to act. He very much doubted that they would improve their condition if their address were laid before her Majesty, and her Majesty were advised to comply with their address (and he did not think any such thing would happen), yet he was pretty sure they would not be much better in consequence of it than they were at this moment. (Cries of "No, no.") They should remain contented with what had been done; for every attempt at Protection had failed. They trusted to Protection under the law of 1815: it had failed. They then trusted to the law of 1825, and they had the same prices in 1835 that they had now. The Legislature had much better let things take their ordinary course, and leave the people to buy and sell where they could best buy and sell. (Cheers and hisses.)

After some observations from Mr. G. G. Day and other gentlemen, the resolution was put and agreed to with only two or three dissentients. Mr. Fryer proposed the second resolution, entering briefly upon its merits:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, no hope can be entertained of a reversal of the fatal policy under which the country, and this county in particular, is suffering, from the present House of Commons, the majority of which this meeting is convinced does not possess the confidence nor represent the present opinions of the people.

Mr. Nicholls seconded the resolution.

Captain Dabery and Mr. Pryme opposed it briefly.

The resolution was then read from the chair, put, and carried by a large majority.

The third resolution—

That a loyal and dutiful address be therefore presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to dissolve the present Parliament, and afford to the people the opportunity of electing their own representatives—men who entertain sentiments in unison with the opinions of the great mass of her Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the empire, and that the address now read be adopted and signed by the High Sheriff on behalf of this meeting—was agreed to.

The Rev. J. Linton briefly addressed the meeting, which, after a sitting of five hours, separated after a vote of thanks to the chairman. There were 800 persons present in the hall.

**IMPORTATION OF HOPS.**—An importation of several packages of hops has lately taken place, the growth of Canada. A vessel arrived from Rotterdam has also brought sixteen bales of hops, the produce of Holland. No previous importations of hops have taken place from Holland or Canada.

A very chaste and well-wrought stained window from the workshop of Ward and Nixon, London, has just been fixed in the north-west end of Walsden parish church. The offering has been made by Mark Faviell, G. F. Brown, and A. G. Eastwood, Esqrs., in commemoration of the building of the tower of the church by the aid of masonic contributions.



## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Royal baron of beef was furnished to her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, this Christmas, by Mr. Minton, one of the Royal tradesmen of Windsor.

Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert have been graciously pleased to contribute £500 to the fund for the Promotion of Female Emigration. In forwarding this contribution, her Majesty was, we understand, graciously pleased to express the Royal approval of Mr. Sidney Herbert's practical measure for the assistance of the working classes.

On the 12th inst., a tremendous "bora"—a wind so called, which comes from the Karst mountains, a branch of the Julian Alps—raged at Trieste, and several vessels were more or less damaged. A Swedish brig, coming from Antwerp with a cargo of sugar, which ran foul of the Austrian frigate *Belona*, broke away her bowsprit and lost her masts.

A committee, composed of engineers, military men, sailors, and ship-owners, has been formed, by order of the Austrian Ministers of War and Trade, to consult upon the means of better fortifying the Port of Trieste towards the sea, and protecting it against the violence of the bora and sirocco winds.

The importations of poultry, which generally comprise large quantities from Belgium, the produce of that country, now also include very considerable quantities from France. A steamer just arrived from Boulogne has brought between 60 and 70 packages of poultry, consisting of turkeys, &c., the produce of France, and consigned to order for the metropolitan markets.

His Imperial Highness the Archduke Ferdinand d'Este died of typhus, at Brinn, in Moravia, at four o'clock in the morning of the 15th inst. The deceased Prince took the complaint in the hospital, where he had gone to visit the sick and wounded. His widow, the young and beautiful Archduchess Elizabeth, who is the daughter of the deceased Palatine of Hungary, the Archduke Joseph, and, consequently, sister to the late Palatine Stephen, is only 18 years of age.

From Warsaw it is stated that within a short period several wealthy French families have settled there, preferring the government of an unqualified military despotism, that prohibits all political discussion, to the storms of the French capital, where they no longer consider life and property wholly safe. Many persons who formerly lived at Dresden have also taken up their residence in Warsaw, to escape the possibility of a popular outbreak.

The political silence to which the Polish nobility are condemned by the policy of Russia, weighs so heavily on them that they willingly emigrate—so willingly, indeed, that the Government keeps them at home, by making it a matter of the greatest difficulty to procure leave to travel. A passport alone costs 100 silver roubles for each person to travel, even for a servant; for official employes, merchants, and traders, the conditions are less strict.

A letter from Toulouse of the 17th inst. states that above 300 Socialists having assembled to celebrate, by a banquet, the acquittal of some of their companions before the Court of Assize of that town, the police entered the dining-hall as the parties were about to sit down to table, and ordered them to disperse, which order was instantly obeyed.

The Archbishop of Paris having suspended the Abbé Chantome from the exercise of his clerical functions, in consequence of his having undertaken the direction of a Democratic Journal in Paris, the Pope, in a letter addressed to the Archbishop, has approved of the measure adopted by his Grace.

Alfred John Duncombe, Esq., is named a member of council at Turk's Island.

Cavaliere Agostino Portelli is appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; and W. Sim and D. Henry Thornton, Esqrs., are nominated to be Companions of the Order.

Two wells in the village of Abrest, in Auvergne (France), where the inhabitants, in general, drew their water, were last week discovered to have been poisoned with verdigris. Several persons having been seized with violent vomitings, an investigation was entered into, and the state of the wells ascertained. The authorities are trying to discover the perpetrators of this atrocious act.

A person of the name of William Murray, of Kelloe, near Durham, has been committed by the county magistrates to take his trial at the assizes, charged with being concerned in uttering the forged notes of the Darlington Bank that were recently put into circulation.

By a Royal decree, all the steamers employed in a service between Holland and England shall pay only half the dues of the harbour of Nieuwediep when they do not stay there longer than twenty-four hours.

A convent at Eriurh has been chosen for the meetings of the German Parliament.

The Liverpool Association for the Reduction of the Duties on Tea has resolved to commence operations.

Within the last few days (says a Birmingham paper) the Wolverhampton Operative Conservative Association has become defunct. The books, newspapers, and fixtures of the reading-rooms are advertised for sale; and the circumstance affords the significant inference, that Conservatism in Wolverhampton is fast waning into decay, and making way for the more enlightened sentiments of Liberalism.

A public breakfast was given at Bradford on Saturday morning to R. Cobden, Esq., and Col. Thompson, at the Bowling-Green, on which occasion about eighty or ninety gentlemen were present. The Mayor occupied the chair, and Mr. Alderman S. Smith the vice-chair.

A fire broke out on Saturday evening at the St. John's Almshouses, Bristol, by which one of the inmates, Elizabeth Hanks, an aged woman of upwards of 87 years old, unhappily met with her death. The fire was happily soon got under, but not till the utmost alarm and consternation had been excited among the aged inmates of the building.

It is reported that Mr. Cobden will shortly make a visit to Cambridge.

The next batch of convicts under sentence of transportation will be forwarded to the new settlement at Perth, Western Australia.

On Saturday evening last an alarming fire broke out at Hampstead Lodge, situate between Reading and Newbury, the seat of the Earl of Craven. Owing to copious supplies of water being continually poured over the burning mass, it was at length got under, but not until the mansion and furniture had sustained a considerable amount of injury.

The Master in Chancery Kindersley has appointed Mr. H. Adron, accountant, to proceed with the winding up of the Bauwen Iron Company's affairs, and to call in the creditors to prove their debts, or they will otherwise be precluded from the recovery thereof.

Colonel and Mrs. Challoner, with their accustomed benevolence, distributed clothes, meat, bread, and money to their numerous workmen and their families on Christmas-eve, at Portnall Park.

Stackpole Court, the seat of the Earl of Cawdor, in Pembrokeshire, was on Thursday week threatened with destruction, in consequence of a fire having broken out in the music-room. The mischief was fortunately discovered by one of the servants in time to prevent the spread of the flames beyond the room, which suffered some damage in its wainscoting and decorations.

Hamburgh harbour is almost clear of ice, and several vessels entered last week. There is a good deal of fresh ice forming in different parts of the Elbe.

The Lords of the Treasury have determined to abolish all gratuities, generally termed "Christmas boxes," after the present year.

A Lord of the Treasury and the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Charles Trevelyan, are about to be appointed as members of a committee for the purpose of further revising the public departments, with the view of effecting reforms or reductions.

An industrious shipwright, living at Bondicar, near Blyth, has, within the last few days, come into possession of vast landed and other property, exceeding in amount £50,000.

At his recent rent-day, Edward Collingwood, Esq., of Dissingley, unsolicited, very generously made a return of 15 per cent. to his tenantry.

At the audit of George Marwood, Esq., of Busby Hall, at Northalerton, on Wednesday, that gentleman generously returned his tenants 20 per cent. upon their half-year's rents.

A contribution of £15 from R. M. de Blackquiere, of London, for the relief of the Kilrush poor, is acknowledged by the Irish papers.

The foundation-stone of a new bank for the use of the Carlisle City and District Banking Company was laid on Wednesday last, upon the site of that of the Old White Lion Inn, English-street, which has been taken down.

On Saturday week a button-maker, in Birmingham, for the amusement of his shopmates, suspended himself by the neck to see how long he could bear hanging. He hung a short time until black in the face, and, being then cut down, was found to be dead.

We regret to announce the death, at Malvern, on Monday last, of Mr. Patrick Fraser Tytler, the well-known historian of Scotland. By his death a literary pension reverts to the Crown.

On Wednesday last, the *Gertrude*, revenue cruiser, captured, near Poole, the sloop *John and Samuel*, of about 30 tons, belonging to Mr. Dore, of Fareham. One hundred and seventy-eight half ankers, containing more than 550 gallons of very strong foreign spirit, were found in a concealment in the vessel. The boat, cargo, and two men found on board were all delivered over to the Custom-house at Poole.

The corporation of Rochester has determined to wear appropriate official costume on all future public occasions.

On Tuesday, a man, having the appearance of a carrier, left a hamper, from one end of which a few pheasant's feathers were sticking out, at the house of a person in North-street, Whitechapel, for which he received 2s. 3d. carriage. When the parcel was opened it contained nothing but three old bricks and a quantity of straw.

E. P. Bastard, Esq., the lay rector of St. Cleer, is about to restore, at considerable expense, the chancel of the church.

John Hugh Smith Pigott, Esq., Lord of the manor of Weston-super-Mare, has presented the splendid organ which adorned the Brockley Hall mansion to the parish church of Weston-super-Mare.

Lord Stanley, of Alderley, has, at his recent rent audits, returned to his numerous tenants 10 per cent. on their respective rentals.

## CHESS.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CASTLE.—Your observation is correct. There is an opinion prevalent among a certain class of chess-players that ugliness is the necessary concomitant of utility; and the more unsightly the chess-men, the more they consider them adapted for the purposes of the game. Let us J. G. T., Halifax; J. G. W., Wellington.—They shall be reported on in our next.

B. M.—There is no likelihood of the Chess Games and Problems of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS being obtainable at present, except by the purchase of the Back Numbers in which they appeared.

USCERATA'S may rest assured that Problems No. 305 and 306 are perfectly correct, and can only be solved in the way we have shown. The ally's action of his friend, that they were capable of solution in one move, could only arise from ignorance of the rudiments of Chess. G. P. T.—The Staunton Chess-men continue to increase in favour, and are gradually superseding the clumsy old patterns, not only in private society, but even in the Clubs.—2. The BRITISH CHESS CLUB, if we mistake not, is entitled to the honour of being foremost on the list of those institutions which have adopted these elegant pieces.

R. V.—The arrival of Herr Lowenthal, the celebrated Hungarian Chess-Player, who, if not yet in London, may be expected daily, will impart new interest and animation to our Metropolitan Chess-circles. M. Lowenthal, it will be remembered, was one of the distinguished Trumvirate who defeated the French players in the great match by correspondence between Paris and London, commenced in November, 1842, and concluded in February, 1846.

H. S. K., M. G., and others. The match by correspondence between the London and Amsterdam Chess-clubs is not likely to be protracted many more moves. We only wait the termination, to give the whole game in full, with very copious notes and observations.

JUVENIS, ALDERMAN.—For instruction in chess, apply to Mr. Horwitz, George and Vulture Hoel, Cornhill.

C. F. C.—If Black, in the game referred to, had played as you suggest, he would undoubtedly have had the advantage.

C. W. R.—The solution of Enigma No. 412 is as follows:—1. Kt to Q R 4th. 2. K to B 7th. 3. B to K R 2d. 4. Kt to Q K 6th. 5. Kt to Q B 6th.—Mate.

Solutions by M. P. Derevon, Brutus, Dr. F. M. L. B. A., Robert Macaire, are correct. Those by Gambit, J. J., Newcastle; F. C. S. K. G., are wrong.

## SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 309.

WHITE. 1. Q to K 2d. BLACK. K to B 4th, or to R 5th, or B to Q 3d. (These are Black's best defences.) WHITE. 2. P takes R. 3. Q or Kt mates.

## PROBLEM NO. 310.

By CHARLES STANLEY, Esq., of the Brighton Chess Club.



White to play, and mate in three moves.

## CHESS BY CORRESPONDENCE.

The following game has lately been contested by letter between the celebrated Shrewsbury School and Brighton College.

(Sicilian Opening.)

WHITE. (Shrewsbury.)	BLACK. (Brighton College.)	WHITE. (Shrewsbury.)	BLACK. (Brighton College.)
1. P to K 4th	P to Q B 4th	23. Kt to R 4th	B to Q B 3d
2. Kt to K B 3d	Kt to Q B 3d	24. Q to K 2d	Q to K sq
3. P to Q 4th	P takes P	25. Kt to Q B 3d	Kt to Q 5th (b)
4. Kt takes P	P to K 4th	26. Q to K B 2d	Kt to K R 4th
5. Kt to Q Kt 3d (a)	Kt to K B 3d	27. B takes K P	R takes B P (c)
6. K B to Q 3d	K B to K 2d	28. Q to K 3d	B takes B
7. Castles	Castles	29. Kt takes K	Kt to Q B 7th (d)
8. P to Q B 4th	P to Q 3d	30. Q B takes K Kt P	
9. Kt to Q B 3d	B to K sq	(ch)	K takes B
10. P to K R 3d	B to K 3d	31. Q to B 3d (ch)	K to K R 3d (e)
11. P to Q R 3d	Kt to K Kt 3d	32. Q takes Kt	Q to K Kt 3d
12. Kt to Q 5th	P to K B 4th	33. R to K 2d	Q R to K B sq (f)
13. P to K B 4th	K B P takes P	34. Q R to Q sq	Q R to K sq
14. B takes P	Kt to K B 3d	35. Q R to Q 6th	Q R to K 3d
15. Kt takes K B	Q Kt takes Kt	36. R takes R	Q takes R
16. B to Q 3d	P to K 4th	37. P to K Kt 4th	Q to K Kt 3d
17. R to K sq	P to Q 4th	38. K to R 2d	R to K B 8th
18. P takes P	B takes P	39. Q to Q 2d (ch)	K to K 2d
19. B to Q B 2d	Q Kt to K B 4th	40. Q to Q 4th (ch)	Kt to K B 3d
20. Kt to Q B 6th	Q to K 2d	41. P to K Kt 5th	K to K B 2d
21. P to Q Kt 4th	Q R to Q sq	42. P takes Kt	
22. B to Q Kt 2d	P to Q Kt 3d		And Black surrendered.

(a) See the observations on this move at p. 672 of the "Handbook."  
(b) From this stage, we should take Black's game for choice; but they lose time in their after-play, and thus suffer their undeniable superiority of position to melt away altogether.  
(c) Taking this P with the Kt seems stronger Chess.  
(d) Kt to K B 4th would not have been so good as this, however promising it might look.  
(e) If Black had returned the Kt to Q 5th, they would have been subjected to a fearful attack by their opponents playing, next move, Kt to K B 6th.  
(f) Q R to K sq looks better. In that case, the following moves are probable:—

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
33. Q R to K sq	Q R to K sq	35. Kt takes Kt	Q takes Q
34. Q R to K sq	Kt to K 6th	36. R takes Q	R takes R (ch)
	And Black has the advantage.		

## CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 515.—By E. H. G.

White: K at Q 7th, Kts at Q 2d and K 6th; Ps at K B 3d, Q 3d, and Q Kt 3d.  
Black: K at Q 4th, Q at Q 5th; Ps at K 4th, Q Kt 4th, and Q R 2d.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 516.—By the Same.

White: K at K Kt 6th, Q at K B 7th, Kt at K Kt 4th, B at Q Kt 4th; Ps at K Kt 2d, K 2d, and Q B 2d.  
Black: K at Q 5th, Q at Q 8th, B at K B 5th, Ps at Q 6th and Q R 4th.

White to play, and mate in two moves.

No. 517.—By W. GRIMSHAW.

White: K at Q 4th, Q at K sq, R at Q R 6th, Kts at K B 5th and K 3d, P at K Kt 3d.  
Black: K at K 3d, Q at K Kt sq, R at K Kt 4th, B at K R 4th, Kt at Q 3d, P at K Kt 5th.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 518.—By the Same.

White: K at K B 5th, B at Q 3d, Kt at Q R 5th, Ps at Q 2d and Q Kt 4th.  
Black: K at Q 4th; Ps at Q 2d and 3d, Q Kt 4th, and Q R 3d.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

No. 519.—Berliner Schachzeitung.

White: K at Q 7th, B at Q 7th, Kt at K 5th; Ps at K B 2d and 4th, K 3d, Q B 2d, and Q Kt 4th.  
Black: K at Q 4th; Ps at K B 4th, K 5th, Q B 5th, and Q B 6th.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

No. 520.—Berliner Schachzeitung.

White: K at his sq, Q at her B sq, Rs at Q R sq and Q R 5th, B at Q Kt 4th, Kt at Q B 6th.  
Black: K at Q 4th, Rs at K R sq and Q R sq, B at Q B sq, Kts at K R 3d and K Kt sq; Ps at K R 6th, K Kt 3d, K B 4th, Q Kt 4th, and Q R 3d.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

No. 521.—By Herr J. E. Ries, of Stuttgart.

White: K at Q sq, Q at her R 3d, R at K 4th, B at Q R 5th, Kt at Q R 4th.  
Black: K at Q 6th, Bs at K Kt sq and Q B 6th, Kt at K Kt 3d; Ps at Q 3d and 4th, Q B 2d, and Q R 4th.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

Considerable alarm has been excited by the settlement of the steeple to the new Roman Catholic chapel, now in the course of erection on the Regent-road, Yarmouth. It was discovered, a few days since, that the upper part of the tower had considerably inclined to the east; and, on examination, it was found that the superincumbent weight had literally crushed the materials of the lower portion of the tower. Some of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood have left their dwellings in a state of alarm; but it is said the tower is now properly secured, and that it will not have to be taken down, as was at one time apprehended.

## IRELAND.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS AND EMIGRATION.—It has become a subject of remark about the country, that the farmers are not providing themselves with seed-wheat—that in fact there are little or no preparations making for spring work, and this is solely attributed to the bad understanding that exists between the farmers and the landlords, the latter still endeavouring to keep up the old rack-rent, and refusing to accede to any terms of tenant-right, and the former being resolved to throw up their holdings and emigrate, rather than submit any longer to the old system. The preparations for emigration are indeed quite as general as those for persevering in industry at home. And as soon as the winter has passed we may expect to see the living tide flow out of Ireland as rapidly as ever. There is also some winter emigration, but not to such an extent as during the last few years. A vessel leaves Waterford in a few days with emigrants.

PROTECTIONIST MOVEMENT.—The following is an authentic list of the noblemen who have identified themselves with the Irish Protectionist movement, by attaching their signatures to the address to the Queen:—Marquises: Downshire, Westmeath, Hertford, Waterford, and Ely. Earls: Glengall, Mayo, Roden, Bandon, Miltown, Shannon, Lucan, Donoughmore, Clonmel, Lonsborough, Castle Stuart, Enniskillen, Limerick, Bantry, Sradbrooke, and Erne. Viscounts: Bangor, Bernard, Gort, Dunganon, Salfordale, Clements, Duneralie, Ashbrook, Lorton, Gormanstown, and O'Neill. Barons: Kilmalee, Dunsandle, Dunsany, Massey, Muskerry, Clonbrock, Clarina, Clannorris, Castlemaine, Carberry, Farnham, and Riversdale. Bishop of Killaloe.

TENANT-RIGHT.—In the north, a vigorous movement in support of the principle of tenant-right has been entered upon by the tenant-farmers.

NEW CUSTOM-HOUSE IN LIMERICK.—The Commissioners of Customs are in treaty with the directors of the Bank of Ireland, as mortgagees of the Mountkennett mills, near the Dublin Steam Company's premises, for the purchase of them as a site for the erection of a new Custom-house for this port, and plans have been this week prepared by Mr. John Fogarty, and forwarded to the board, in relation to the project.

THE FRENCH WILL CASE.—The amount of property which reverts to Lord French's brother, the Hon. Martin French, by the verdict in the protracted trial, is about £800 per annum, £5000 in the funds, and "trusts" of about £1600 in various securities, devised by their late brother, the Hon. Thomas French.

Conciliation Hall, on Monday, showed but "a beggarly account of empty boxes," the "rent" being only £8 12s.

The new division of Dublin into wards has been Gazetted. It is grounded on the elements of population and property, and is considered to be a most able application of scientific principles to the purpose in view. An appeal against the division, on the part of the Conservatives, was heard in the Privy Council on Monday, and decided against.

## CONDITION OF IRELAND.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NEW POOR-LAW.

(Continued from page 406.)

From the town of Kilrush to Kilkee, on the shore of the Atlantic, I passed through an unimproved district, on which nature has bestowed fertility, and man has levelled the habitations that were built in happier days. In a drive of seven miles I counted thirty-three roofless houses. Kilkee is a beautiful spot round a bay, from which the ground rises like an amphitheatre, are planted many villas and baths. The scenery is bold, and the waves, after rolling across the vast Atlantic, spend their last force on its rocks, dying amidst noise and foam. From its situation, it is worthy of its name, the "Western Brighton," and it is worthy of notice, showing that nature has left nothing that can contribute to prosperity, not even a suitable bathing-place, unprovided in the Union of Kilrush. From Kilkee, through Kildare and Donoughboy, I went to Movenee the roofless, of which I have already sent you a sketch. I was told here a melancholy tale of the widow Hogan and her four children, who were all carried out of her cabin in a helpless state of fever, and laid down in a ditch on the opposite side of the road, where they remained several days, when a humane stranger had them carried to the hospital, eleven miles off. To Tullig from Kilkee, I counted ninety-two roofless houses. Passing afterwards through the picturesque village of Carraigaholt to Donaghra and Querin, I counted 105 dwellings in ruins. Clarefield, to which I came next, baffles description. Adults, who appeared idiotic; children, wrinkled with care, so that they appeared like aged persons; and men who should not be worn out, but more helpless than children, with scarcely a rag to cover them, crowded the place. Their habitations were mere kennels. I was heart-sick, and said "Surely there cannot be so much suffering and neglect in any other spot on the face of the earth!" I returned to Kilrush, glad to find a refuge even in it from the more appalling misery of the surrounding villages.

Leaving Kilrush once more, I proceeded northwards to Enaghmonmore, Derrard, and Donmore, and in this distance I counted thirty houses levelled. In the whole district there is not one respectable or even decent house. Kildare, to which I next came, is another ruined village, in which the extinction of the old Irishmen has been complete. Afterwards I passed through the village of Doonbeg, a spot possessing every natural advantage, one half of which has been destroyed by the landowners, and remains, with its pointed gables and a few blackened rafters, a sad contrast even to the miserable houses that are left standing. The people who are yet left alive are crowded into dens, or rather dog-holes, where, in a space not sufficient for two persons, twenty are glad to find shelter.

Two wretched families have taken refuge under the bridge in a hole. They consist of two widows, one with three children, all ill of jaundice, and the other with five. The history of Judy O'Donnel, one of the widows, is worthy of being sketched. She had given evidence against a dishonest relieving officer whose relative was a driver upon the estate on which she lived, and Judy's house was very soon afterwards levelled with the ground. The wreckers came upon the roof with a bag of stones, and kept the enemy at bay till his ammunition was exhausted, when he was obliged to give in, and stand by to see the little furniture of his mother cast into the road and the house pulled down. Judy exhibited her receipts for the rent up to the last gale; and she declared the agent of the owner, to whom she had tendered what was due twice, had refused, and that she was ejected because she deposited against the dishonest public servant. Judy and Margaret O'Donnel, with their families, then retired to the hole under the bridge, represented in the sketch, and there they are now suffered to remain, holding their habitation at the mercy of the county surveyor. They are afraid of being ejected even from this spot, and dare not cross the stepping-stones shown in the sketch lest they should be taken up for trespassing. Judy O'Donnel's son is dying of dysentery.

Before quitting Kilrush altogether, I must give you some further particulars of the Union and of its inhabitants. I must first tell you that at present the population of the Union is decreased from 82,358 in 1841 to 69,000; and, as 31,549 persons were receiving relief in June, actually 48 per cent. of the inhabitants are paupers, and such paupers as the vestry papers in England would hasten to relieve. What has become of the 17,358 who, contrary to the course of nature, which everywhere delights in the increase of sentient beings, unlike warriors and Irish landlords, and has provided for the continual ennobling of all, I cannot precisely say. Some few, a very small fragment, may, by emigration, have escaped from the desolation, and found a refuge in England, or a happier home across the Atlantic; but the great majority has been starved out of existence.

"I see," said Captain Kennedy, writing on January 2, this year, in the papers published by the House of Commons, "masses of the people starving, and the land, which could be made to feed twice the number, lying all but waste." In the special returns I find entries like this:—"This man, Michael Consideine, in consequence of having land, could not be relieved. His wife and nine children died of actual want." The following table of deaths in the workhouse will throw some light on this painful subject:—

Years.	Average Number of Inhabitants.	Total Deaths.	After a residence of more than				
			Three Months.	Two Months.	One Month.	One Week.	Odd Days.
1847	922	1075	321	235	264	154	101
1848	1411	1209	372	293	325	152	61
1849*	1617	441	133	90	84	76	53

\* Exclusive of December.

Thus, the whole number of deaths in the workhouse, in 1847, exceeded the average number of inmates by 43. It was only less than the largest number ever present (1192) by 117. In 1847, the paupers entered the workhouse only to die. In 1848, the case was not quite so bad; the deaths were 202 less than the average number present in the workhouse, and 469 less than the largest number (1678) ever present. In 1849, the mortality was much lessened, partly owing to a change in the management, under vice-guardians, who had superseded elective guardians; and partly owing to the vast number of previous deaths, which left, in 1849, fewer to die. Of all the frightful mortality I ever heard of, except that of the Black-Hole of Calcutta, or that of the fore-cabin





DRIVING CATTLE FOR RENT BETWEEN OUCHTERARD AND GALWAY.

as some elucidation of the great question at issue in the world, as to the effects of commerce and manufactures united with agriculture, and of agriculture alone, in sustaining a population. In proportion to Lancashire, Kilrush—which consists for the most part of a very fertile soil; which is admirably situated at the mouth of a great river, possessing also a large extent of sea-coast, in the neighbourhood of an abundance of fish; whose people are actually starved out of existence—was, before the depopulation began, only one-third as densely peopled as Lancashire. The valuation of the Kilrush Union is put down at £59,449, or something more than 6s. 2d. per acre. The annual value of real property in Lancashire is put down in 1841 at £5,266,606, or upwards of £4 13s. per acre. Thus, while the population of Lancashire, per acre, is three times as great as that of Kilrush, the value of property is thirteen times as great. These little data, applicable in a great degree to the whole of agricultural Ireland, may serve to explain the different effects of commerce and manufactures contrasted with agriculture, and the different operation of a Poor-law falling on the rapidly increasing property of commercial and prosperous England and on the poverty of agricultural and decaying Ireland.

It is not my object, nor can it be yours, nor that of any reflecting man, to hold up the unfortunate landowners of this district to public indignation. They are the heirs and the victims of a vicious system. I have forbore, therefore, to mention their names in conjunction with the unfortunate creatures whose cases I have brought before you. I will, however, before I quit the subject altogether, mention that the principal proprietors and middlemen of the Union are Colonel Vandeleur, O'Gorman Mahon, John McDonnell, the Marquis of Conyngham; Messrs. Westropp, John McMahon, Blackall, Major Brooks, Charles Wilmot Smith, Hugh P. Hickman, H. Stewart Burton, Mr. Westly, and Messrs. Stackpoles, minors. I may also give you the following account of the houses levelled within the Union of Kilrush, in the last two years:—Kilmurry Strikane, 604; Kilard, 621; Moyarta, 402; Kilrush, 305; Knock and Kilmer, 111; Kilmichael, 221; Kilmacdoonane, 167; Kilballyowen, 150; Kilkee, 165; Kildysart, 80; Kilidane, 40; Kilofin, 30; Total, 2891.

I must now take leave of Kilrush, which I left on my way to Ennistimon. Similar scenes of desolation to those I had beheld for several days continued; and on both sides of the road, as far as the eye could reach, it fell on "tumbled"

and roofless houses. Now and then I saw on the borders of a bog or quagmire some of the scalps in which the people seek to preserve their lives. On arriving at the bog of Cahernmore, I alighted at the scalp shown in the Sketch, which Mr. Monsel and his companions discovered to their surprise, and found in it a woman dying of the customary fever which attends on want of food and clothing and the ordinary necessities of life. Than this scalp, nothing could be more wretched. It was placed in a hole, surrounded by pools, and three sides of the scalp (shown in the Sketch) were dripping with water, which ran in small streams over the floor and out by the entrance. Yet, wretched as this hole is, the poor inhabitants said they would be thankful and content if the landlord would leave them there, and the Almighty would spare their lives. Its principal tenant is Margaret Vaughan, whose history has found its way before the public, and a more wretched history, even in this country of wretchedness, is scarcely to be found. Not far from her cave is the destroyed village of Kilmurry Strikane, another of those pictures of desolation of which I have already sent you too many. For the present I will leave them, and turn to a little oasis of humanity in the desert of misery.

A short drive from Kilmurry brought us to the summit of a hill where the face of the country appeared instantly to have changed. It was like passing from the Catholic to the Protestant cantons of Switzerland, or rather like a dream. At once I came on neat white-washed houses and tidy gardens, with the haggard or farm-yard inclosed, and generally containing something worth taking care of. I had entered on the domain of Colonel Windham, who is not tired of his fellow-creatures, and does not seek to exterminate them. Not a roofless house did I see here. Whether Colonel Windham have spent a large fortune on this place, or whether he have gained money while he has promoted the happiness of his tenantry, I am not informed; but when he contrasts his property with the surrounding estates, he must feel himself a proud and a happy, if not a rich, man. The whole face of the country is altered, and all the people you meet, whether men, women, or children, seem cheerful, as if they had plenty of the means of subsistence. On the very threshold of his property stands a national school, equally picturesque from its position, and admirable for its management. Though a single example is by no means conclusive of what might be equally done by all, and there never can

be any just reliance on a system which places the welfare of the many at the discretion of a few, and wrecks the happiness of a whole community when the hereditary owner of a large property is a worthless extortioner and spendthrift,



JUDY O'DONNELL'S HABITATION UNDER THE BRIDGE AT DOONREG.

yet I must say the conduct of Colonel Windham adds to the loathing with which we regard many of his neighbours. More fortunate, however, than many of them, he inherited an unencumbered property and an ample fortune in England, which enabled him to spare his Irish tenants without falling a prey to exacting creditors, when the famine fell on the land.

On coming to Spanish Point, so named from a portion of the Armada having been wrecked on it, I found an enormous building, once called the Atlantic Hotel, converted into an auxiliary union workhouse. It is an emblem of what is everywhere going on—the change from productive industry, to destructive pauperism, the cessation of hope and enterprise, and the spreading of apathy and despair. I love the ocean with its incessant life, a great emblem of eternity, and I found the scenery on its shores, about Spanish Point, bold and attractive. From thence, however, to Ennistimon, through Lohyncha, there is nothing so remarkable as the absence of those roofless villages and skeleton houses I had found so abundant in the districts about Kilrush.

I send you herewith a Sketch of Driving for Rent. It may serve to vary a little the miseries I have to portray.

(To be continued next week.)



SCALP AT CAHERNMORE.



## PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The general mourning for the lamented Queen Adelaide will deprive the January fashions of the attraction of colour; and on this account the Parisian *toilettes* are unavailable. We shall not, then, speak of the hues which pervade assemblies, but simply of the shapes which are most in vogue. Morning dresses are chiefly made with plain bodies, open up the front: some are worn *blouse* fashion; but these are only tolerable by the fireside. These *peignoirs* have the backs tight, and the fronts loose and flowing; they are made of levantine, lined with silk, and well wadded: they are warm garments, very convenient and easy to invalid and delicate persons. *Jaquettes* have become so very general, that they can no longer be classed as fashions; they are nearly relinquished by the *divanites* who plique themselves on the style of their *toilette*: they are worn of velvet, silk, cloth, merino, and even of knitted wool. Black crapes, *barèges*, and *tarlatans* are employed for evening dresses, which are trimmed with ribbons and flowers, either crape or jet for deep mourning, and they are very becoming. It is well known that in Spain black is chosen by ladies as a mark of elegance.

Furs are the great luxury of this month, and dresses are trimmed and cloaks lined with them. Sable is the most esteemed and the richest for walking dress; ermine is only worn in the carriage, or to evening parties. This fur is so handsome, that it requires great luxury to accompany it, to be *comme il faut*. The choice of furs which a woman wears is considered to indicate the rank which she holds in the aristocracy of elegance. We see Parisians attach a great importance to the furs which they wear. Some attempts have been made to ornament bonnets with bands of fur; but this heavy, ungraceful trimming has not been adopted.

Bonnets are worn rather larger, the shape still more open than last month. Black satin drawn bonnets, trimmed very simply with a fall, are much worn: they are ornamented sometimes with a bunch of small feathers; when there is no lace fall, they put on the edge of the poke a double puffing of gauze. Black crape bonnets are likewise much worn: on the edge of the poke and on the crown is a trimming of black marabouts; this trimming is very becoming. Worsteds laces are exceedingly in vogue; they are much used to ornament mantles and to edge silks: richly worked, the transparency of their tissue equals the most beautiful blonds; they are true winter trimmings.

## NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

## SALTWOOD CASTLE.

This fine old fortress was anciently one of the palaces of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and was then a complete stronghold. Its archiepiscopal glory, however, has long since departed, and now the Castle is used as a farm-house. The old walls are broken down, and cattle-sheds erected within their circuit. The walls enclose an elliptical area of three acres, and have several square or circular towers, now greatly dilapidated.



SALTWOOD CASTLE.

The keep, or gate-house (almost entirely rebuilt by Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury in the time of Richard II.), is a fine ruin, its massive towers and general character being most impressive. Though a ruin in its strict sense, as compared to its original extent and character, there are some habitable rooms in it; and the hall itself (a noble room, with a handsome stone-groined roof) is in a tolerably perfect state, but sadly shorn of its due proportions, as it has been curtailed by having a kitchen made out of a part of it. Some of the apartments are in great ruin, yet still retaining their Gothic fire-places.

The ascent to the different rooms is by a newel staircase in one of the towers; and these stairs lead to the roof of the building, whence a pleasing view of the country is obtained.

Saltwood Castle is about a mile to the north of Hythe.

## THE FEAR OF THE WORLD; OR, LIVING FOR APPEARANCES.

BY THE BROTHERS MAYHEW.

Authors of "The Greatest Plague of Life," &c.

## CHAPTER III.

It was nearly one o'clock before Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls came down to breakfast in the morning after the Chief Baron's party, and then the conversation turned upon the pleasant evening they had spent; and they paid agreeable compliments to one another about the effect they had created on entering the drawing-room, and what they had by accident overheard strangers say of each other.

Wellesley declared that, while he was dancing with the Hon. Miss Trelawney, she asked him who that stylish lady in black velvet, with long ringlets and the diamond brooch, was; and whether he didn't think her a remarkably fine woman; at which Mrs. Nicholls simpered, and told Wellesley that at supper-time she was seated by a lady, who enquired if she knew the name of the quiet, gentlemanly young man who was standing behind Mrs. Bosanquet. And then Mr. Nicholls told Mrs. Nicholls that he had never felt so proud of her in all his life: that really her appearance was so *distinguee*, and everything she had about her was so good and rich, and the diamonds were so thoroughly in keeping with her *tout ensemble*, that he couldn't help saying to himself that there wasn't a lady of title in the room that was fit to come near her; adding, that it was very lucky he had thought of buying the brilliants, for the impression they had created was enormous. He declared to goodness, while she was sitting on the sofa in the back-drawing-room, before they went down to supper, he saw an old dowager with her eyes fixed upon them for a quarter of an hour at least. Mrs. Wellesley, in the fulness of her heart, could not at the moment help tapping her husband's hand playfully, and telling him to go along with him.

After a slight pause, Mrs. Nicholls declared that she could not for the life of her get a wink of sleep all that night for the thoughts of the opera-box. It was so very awkward just at that time, and she couldn't see any way of getting out of it respectably; for, however pleasant it would be to have a box of their own there, still Wellesley knew as well as she did that they could not afford it. To which Mr. Nicholls assented most heartily, saying of course they couldn't; and although there was nothing he should like better, yet they mustn't for a moment think of taking it; so they must make some good excuse or other, and get out of it as well as they could. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls enquired, what excuse? It would never do to go telling the truth, and letting Lady Verulam know that their means at present wouldn't admit of it. Yet it was such a pity, she added; for Lady Verulam was a very useful person to know, and her set was such a nice one to get into; besides, what on earth could she say to put her off when she called? On which Mr. Nicholls told her to say—oh!—why, say that—oh! say anything she liked. He'd leave it all to her. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls remarked, that suppose she was forced to take it, then Wellesley would go making a noise about it. Mr. Nicholls "thought he would too," which convinced his dear Sara that it would be better for them both to see her Ladyship when she came, and then Wellesley could make his own excuse, and take it or not, just as he pleased.

Accordingly, when her Ladyship's heavy carriage rolled up to the house, and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls saw the footman's powdered hair, and



PARIS FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

the horses' coronetted harness, they grew so proud with the idea of an equipage labelled "noble" so conspicuously, as her Ladyship was being drawn up before their door, that they felt all their prudent resolves ooze out as Lady Verulam came in. And when their noble visitor began to dilate in the drawing-room on the beauties of the Opera, and point out how necessary it was to the existence of a person of "ton," confessing that for herself she was sure she should never be able to get through a season without it, the sapient Mr. Nicholls found himself precisely of the same way of thinking; and declared that one met none but the best of the land there, and all the people one cared about, and vowed that he breathed quite another atmosphere in the place; besides, considering all things, it was certainly the cheapest, and, indeed, the only amusement to his fancy. Whereupon her Ladyship hoped that she was not too late yet, and that Mr. Nicholls had not taken Mrs. Nicholls' box for the season yet. To which he replied, that he had not as yet, and that, to say the truth, his wife's health was so delicate that he did not know whether Mrs. Nicholls's physician would permit her to go there this year. On this, her Ladyship expressed great sympathy for the alleged sufferer, and recommended her physician, who, she said, had done wonders for her nerves; and then she begged to know whether Mr. Nicholls was any relation to that amiable man, Sir Giles Nicholls, whom she had had the pleasure of meeting in the north last autumn; and on hearing that he was the son of Sir Giles, her Ladyship hoped that he would be sure and remember her to the fine old gentleman the first time he had an opportunity. After which, Lady Verulam made Mrs. Nicholls promise that she would take pity on her dear girls, and call and see them, for they had heard such a deal about her that they were positively dying to make her acquaintance. So that by the time her Ladyship took her leave, Mr. Nicholls had forgotten his excuses, and consented to share the opera-box with Lady Verulam.

When Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls were alone, and began to consider what they had done, they were astonished to find that the expense of it was

not so much, after all; for that last season it had cost them between twenty and thirty pounds for boxes; and now, for a trifle more than fifty pounds a year extra—in fact, a mere pound a week—they should have all the *éclat* of having a box of their own; and that, if Sara could only manage to save the additional pound out of the weekly house-keeping, why, they would actually be getting an opera-box for nothing!

When the season came they didn't at all regret their great bargain; for the brilliants looked superb with the lights playing upon them, and Mrs. Nicholls was delighted to see that all the loungers in the pit, as they passed by "her box," couldn't help gazing at her; nor was she less gratified to find them stopping a few paces off and taking a long peep at her through their *lorgnettes*. Though when the time came for her carriage to be called, her heart invariably sank within her as she jumped into "the fly" they had hired for the evening, trembling lest any of her previous admirers should follow her and discover that they were not carriage people.

Every time they went to the Opera, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nicholls had some complaint or other to make about "the fly," either the cushions were damp or covered with dust enough to spoil any dress; or the brass ornaments hadn't been cleaned; or the driver's box-coat was not fit to be seen, and all burst at the button-holes; and his hat was so shabby and bent that really he didn't look a bit better than a common cabman in the street; so that, although they were paying an enormous price, any one could see with half an eye that it wasn't their own turn-out; indeed, as far as it went, they might just as well save the expense and have a hackney-coach at once; and they only wished to goodness there was another man in the neighbourhood near at hand who let at least decent things. So they went on grumbling until the night of the Queen's Drawing-room, when Mrs. Nicholls, on her return from the opera, found that the plume that she had put in her head, so that she might not appear at the opera different from the ladies who had been to the palace, was completely tipped with dirt, from rubbing against the



"The loungers in the pit, as they passed 'her box,' could not help looking at her."



rt, aged 75.—At Southwell  
an of her age.—At Angles









HUNGARIAN EMIGRANTS ON THEIR MARCH TO SHAUMLA.

## SKETCHES IN HUNGARY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I SEND you a Sketch of the last division of the Hungarian emigration on its march to Shaumla. It comprises portraits of Kossuth, of Count Casimir Bathyani, and of Generals Perczel and Dembinski. Kossuth wears the black felt hat and white ostrich feather, distinctive of the Magyar civil and military leaders. Bathyan and Perczel are in hussar uniforms, and the old white-bearded Dembinski is clad in the national costume of the Polish nobles. In the distance are visible the carriages of the Countesses Bathyan and Dembinski.

The Poles, under the command of Count Zamayski and of General Vysocki, left Widdon on the preceding Monday (30th of October). The Italians, under Count Monti, on the Tuesday; Bem and the converts to Islamism, in all 98 in number, on the Wednesday and Thursday. On the Saturday following, the Hungarian leaders, officers, and soldiers—not a couple of score, as stated by the *Times* correspondent, but upwards of 600—supplied with a hundred cars and waggons, and escorted by several hundred Turkish *nisam*, followed the same line of march.

For the accompanying Portrait, Kossuth gave me a sitting; it is a most characteristic likeness. (A Memoir of Kossuth appeared in No. 365 of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

General Guyon, who is prominent in the next Sketch, is an Englishman, the son of a post-captain in the British navy. Having attained the rank of major in the Hungarian army, and married a Hungarian lady (the Countess Splenyi), he was, in 1848, residing on his estates, absorbed in field sports and agricultural pursuits. In obedience to his oath, and in fulfilment of his duty to his adopted country, he took up arms in its defence when invaded by the hordes of Jellachich, and never swerved from that moment in his devotion to the Diet.

Always popularly considered the most daring of the Magyar leaders, he is allowed by competent judges to have equally surpassed in military capacity all his fellow-commanders, with the exception of, perhaps, Bem and Damianitch. That the high reputation he enjoys should hardly render justice to his merits is attributable to the unceasing efforts of Görgey to disseminate the impression that Guyon was a mere *sabreur*, who owed everything to his headlong valour. At

the outset of Görgey's campaigns, when manœuvring to isolate his army from the Executive and the Diet, he found in the fidelity of Guyon an obstacle to his designs. Görgey abandoned him at Tyrnau, with 1600 men, in the midst of Simmonich's army, through which, contrary to all expectation, Guyon fought his way. During the north-eastward retreat of Görgey, who only fought one action, and was there defeated, Guyon, who commanded a corps of his army, was not only everywhere successful, but saved the whole force by his complete victory over Field-Marshal Schlik, in the passes of the Tarczal. In this action, one of the most desperate upon record, Guyon, with the loss of 4000 out of 10,000 which he commanded, stormed the strongest positions in Hungary, defended by 15,000 picked Imperialists. Though the Diet decreed that Guyon's name should be inscribed on a bronze pillar, Görgey, as chief in command, reaped the credit of this successful march and junction. When Guyon, denouncing him as a traitor or a coward, refused to serve another hour under his orders, he was persuaded to silence, and appointed to the command of Comorn. This fortress, then invested by the enemy, he succeeded, after the most romantic adventures, in entering, with twenty horsemen, with which he surprised and took prisoners one detachment of 120 men, and cut to pieces another of equal number.

Amongst the most remarkable of his actions must be accounted the storming of Mansworth, in Austria, previous to the repulse at Swechat, in the beginning of the war; and, towards its close, his utter defeat of the Ban Jellachich, whom he drove finally from the Banat with prodigious slaughter.

After the defection of Görgey, when the Hungarian armies were everywhere magically dissolving, Guyon rejected all proposals of surrender, and led the wreck of his corps escorting Kossuth to Widdon.

General Guyon is about thirty-five years of age; short in stature, but light and active, with fair hair and beard, and light blue eyes. One would hardly augur, from the placidity of his tone and manner, the unflinching resolution which induced him to ride into the midst of armed mutineers and to shoot down their ringleader, or to direct his artillery to mow down with grape the laggards in the rear, when he led his desperate assaults on seemingly impregnable positions.

In the accompanying Sketch, an incident of General Guyon's last campaign is portrayed; when, cut off by the Austrian cavalry, he defended himself on foot, with his back to a waggon, for several minutes, killing one and disabling several

of his assailants; till Mr. Longworth, the Circassian traveller, a captain on his staff, spurred up with a party of hussars to the rescue of his chief.

General Haynau's morbid cruelty and thirst for blood it is perhaps only charitable to attribute to a defective or diseased organisation. To preside at executions and massacres, and perpetrate little acts of brutality, constitutes his chief



KOSSUTH, FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.

delight; whilst afterwards he spends hours and days in tears in a wretched state of nervous excitement. His eyes are often red with weeping; and his old head, shaking with a palsied motion on his long neck, affords a pitiable spectacle. Only known by the storming of Brescia, and by his ruthless massacre of the inhabitants, he had been always unfortunate till the battle of Temeswar, where, notwithstanding Russian aid, till four in the afternoon the day went against him. This victory, if it could so be called, owed all its results to subsequent accidents and to the surrender of Görgey. Haynau has since avowed the intention to revenge, through the scaffold, his own and all the Austrian discomfitures in arms. According to common rumour, he declared in council, a short time since, that retribution had to be dealt for the 60,000 Austrians slain in battle by the Magyars. Nevertheless, a Hungarian who has suffered in his own family from the avenging ferocity of Haynau, observes that all he should feel justified in doing if he had him in his power, would be to shave his head, blister the nape of his neck, and place him on a cooling diet.

(A Portrait of General Haynau appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for Dec. 8.)

In Stuttgart, two late deputies of the Frankfort Assembly (Kalaczek and Hagen) have announced a new monthly journal, to appear with the new year, devoted to the interest of the *Volks-partei*; its programme states that it will present the principles of the party to the public "in their political, scientific, historical, critical, and æsthetic relations." If the principles themselves outlive the weight of illustration to be thrown on them, they must possess excessive vitality.



GENERAL GUYON DEFENDING HIMSELF.



# THE FEAR OF THE WORLD; OR, LIVING FOR APPEARANCES.

BY THE BROTHERS MAHEW.

AUTHORS OF "THE GREATEST PLAGUE OF LIFE," ETC.

(Continued from page 446.)

## CHAPTER IV.

THE next morning Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls, according to agreement, went over the upper part of the house, to see which room could be given up to Wellesley's sister. First one plan was proposed, and then another. Now the nursery was to be given up; but then it was impossible, for there must be a separate room at the top of the house for the children to play in. And now the cook and the housemaid were to sleep together in the back kitchen, which Wellesley said could easily be fitted up as a bedroom for them; but then Mrs. Nicholls wanted to know how the house could ever be managed without a back kitchen; and, moreover, she asked where Parker's press-bedstead was to go to—he must have a room to himself. Then Wellesley proposed that they should hire a bedroom for him at some house close by, just for the time, and so the maids could have Parker's room, and the nurse and the children could leave the bed-room at the back of theirs, and go up into the maids' room, in the back attic, and the front attic might still remain as the nursery. But this profound plan Mrs. Nicholls overruled by inquiring, if Parker slept out, at what time Wellesley thought he would be coming in to do his work in the morning? Besides, it would never do. Then, Wellesley didn't see why Parker shouldn't sleep in the front kitchen, if that was all. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls exclaimed, "What! in the place where their dinners were cooked?" So that Wellesley, finding that he could devise no feasible method for getting out of their difficulty, grew angry, and said that his wife might arrange it just as she liked, but arranged it must be, somehow or other—for, as he had said before, he was not going to be dragged into the expense of taking a larger house, especially as it was as much as he could do to pay the rent of the one he was in—so he begged she wouldn't speak to him any more about it; and thus the matter dropped, Mrs. Nicholls feeling considerably annoyed because her husband wouldn't take a new house, and Mr. Nicholls half vexed because he couldn't.

The carriage was to be home in about a fortnight, so it was high time to look after a horse. Nicholls had seen one or two, but the animals didn't step out well, and carried their heads badly, and, in fact, were not sufficiently showy for what he wanted. Luckily, however, his friend Lively Harry came to his aid; for, one afternoon, while he was at Anderson's, looking at a horse, which he was having trotted up and down, that ubiquitous gentleman strolled through the yard; and, seeing what Nicholls was after, advised him not on any account to buy that creature, for it was an old stager, and he had known it on town for ten years at least, during which time it had had double as many masters. Last season young Greville bought it. Of course, he continued, Nicholls knew young Greville—he was in the Thames Yacht Club, and had won the cup the year Cerito came out. Then Lively Harry hoped Mrs. Nicholls didn't catch cold last Tuesday night; and told Wellesley, after he had left them, he had gone to supper with a friend, who assured him, on the best authority, that there was about to be another change in the Ministry. Next he asked Nicholls whether he had read Disraeli's last new novel, and what he thought of it? The people were all talking about it, he said, at Fred Gordon's the other night—he meant Fred Gordon that had carried off Baron Rathbone's eldest daughter. And then he exclaimed, "By the by, Nicholls, Gordon has a chestnut mare that he wants to part with that would just suit you; so, if you like, I'll just step round with you and introduce you. He's a deuced nice fellow for a man to know, and gives capital parties, I can tell you; and then we can all go and look at the animal together."

And so they did, and Wellesley was so taken with the paces and whole appearance of the mare, that he made her his own by giving Mr. Gordon his bill for fifty pounds, at a month, and left directions that the horse should be sent home on the morrow.

At dinner he told his wife all that he had done, and remarked how well the horse would look in their carriage, for chestnut was such a nice gentlemanly colour; and that he was sure that when she saw it in the brougham, she would say that any one would take it to be a nobleman's turn-out, adding that he had given a bill at a month for the animal, because by that time his quarter's allowance would be due. All of which pleased Mrs. Nicholls exceedingly; but, reverting in her own mind to the house, she asked Wellesley where he was going to put the horse? to which Mr. Nicholls replied, that perhaps it would be better to let it stand at livery for a time at the fly-master's stables, as that would keep the fellow from bothering him about his account. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls begged of her husband to think of what he was about to do; and, just to prove to him the foolish, imprudent way in which he was going to act, she pointed out how he would have to pay at least thirty shillings a week for the horse and carriage at livery, and from five to seven shillings a week for a bedroom for Parker out of the house—making, with one thing and another, near upon two pounds, or better than a hundred a year, addition to his present expenses. And all that he would go and incur just because he was so obstinate as not to take a new house, and where he could have his own stables, and live in a more fashionable part of the town, for very little more than they were at present paying for the out-of-the-way little place they lived in.

This was a home thrust to Nicholls's pocket and vanity, for he began to see that by moving, as his wife had pleasantly said, to a more fashionable part of the town, he could make twice as stylish appearance for little more than half of what it cost him in the humble retirement of St. John's Wood. Still, he trembled lest he should not be able to find a tenant for the remainder of his lease; and he expressed to his wife the fears he had on that score. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls assured him that, after the improvements they had made, and the manner in which they had beautified the place, they should be able to let it directly, and, so far as that went, at an increased rent into the bargain; adding that, either it was very foolish to have ever bought the carriage at all, or else, having done so, it was worse than madness to think of stopping in a place where there were no stables, and nobody near that you care about to see it, and where it was positively little or no credit at all to one. And how a man, she continued, with the income which he now had, could hesitate for a moment about going into a better part of the town, was, she must confess, far beyond her comprehension. Why, there was he, receiving five hundred a year from his father, and say a hundred a year from his business, and a hundred and sixty from his sister, making his income altogether near upon eight hundred pounds, to say nothing of what he would save by the stables, and the increase of rent they were to get for their present house—and yet he was frightened to death about going into a place that couldn't, even in the most expensive quarter of London, cost him more than fifty pounds a year beyond what he was then paying.

Wellesley at once saw the correctness of the statement, and observed that, to be sure, it was not as if they would have to buy new furniture, for what he had got he was certain was good enough for anywhere. So that, after a little further consideration of the matter, it was arranged that Wellesley should look out and see what could be done.

Mr. Wellesley Nicholls, having once made up his mind to leave, wasn't long in finding a house quite equal, if not superior, to his improved circumstances. It was delightfully situated within five minutes' walk of Hyde Park, with excellent stabling, all complete, and offered every convenience to a family of the highest respectability; and what made it far more desirable in the eyes of both Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls was, that their sideboard fitted the recess in the dining-room to a hair, and their drawingroom carpet was very little too large, and could easily be cut down for the little sitting-room at the back. They both of them agreed, as usual, that it was quite a bargain at a hundred and twenty pounds a year, especially as there was no premium to pay, and the fixtures were to be taken at a valuation, and they couldn't come to much. Though when, in about a fortnight afterwards, Mr. Nicholls went to "settle and sign," he was astonished to find, that, what with the expenses of preparing the lease, and the broker's valuation of the fixtures, "that couldn't come to much," he had eighty-seven pounds odd to pay before entering the premises. However, he had a perfect gentleman to deal with, who took short bills for the fixtures, and consequently he had only the legal expenses to get rid of.

Nicholls chose a beautiful apartment for his sister, and he thanked his stars that, with the exception of fitting that up, and a carpet or two for

the principal rooms, he should be put to little or no expense at all. Though, when they called in the upholsterer, it was astonishing to see how mistaken they had been in this respect likewise, as the man soon proved to them that there was scarcely a room in the new house that didn't require something or other to be made for it, for the whole place was so much larger, that it would look nearly naked without it. There must be half-a-dozen new chairs and a couple of what-nots for the dining-room, to make it look anything like, and another sofa and ottoman for the back drawingroom; and the upholsterer would also recommend a pier-glass or two and some card-tables for the front drawingroom; and then the curtains they had at present would look terribly scanty, and cost almost as much to alter as a new set would come to; and, moreover, there was the little back sitting-room—that would have to be entirely new furnished, and which, strange to say, had totally escaped Mr. Nicholls's notice. But the upholsterer was in a very large way of business, and he had furnished Wellesley's house before, and had never pressed much for his money; so Mr. Nicholls agreed with the man, that, while he was about it, it would be better not "to spoil the ship for a hap'orth o' tar," especially as it was a thing they didn't do every day; and, besides, what would his friends say, when they came and saw a large handsome room only half filled with furniture. Consequently, the orders were given, and in a month's time the house was to be all ready to receive them.

Previous to leaving St. John's-wood, Mr. Nicholls found several other little difficulties arise which had not entered into his calculation; for the tradesmen, hearing that he was about to quit the neighbourhood, began to grow rather persevering about the settlement of their bills; and by



"Say that you've been prevented by illness from writing before."

the time he had quitted them and paid for the carriage, he found that a considerable hole had been made in the hundred and fifty pounds he had received on account of his sister's first year's board and lodging. However, in a week he would have his quarter's money again, which, together with the ten or twelve pounds that remained in hand, he reckoned would enable him to pay up all his back rent, and stop the mouth of that bothering fly-man with something on account; and then, if he could only manage to put off some of the other things that were not so particularly pressing, he had no doubt he should be able to carry on the war. For it was not as if he was going into a worse house: and then creditors never annoyed a man when they saw that he was getting up in the world; so that, after all, he was only worrying himself about trifles, and felt convinced that in a year or two (with proper management) he should find himself much better off than ever he had been.

One day when Nicholls came home from business, he was astonished to learn from Mrs. Nicholls that the flyman had objected to take the ten pounds on account, observing that, as the bill had been running on for near upon a year, and they were about quitting the neighbourhood, he didn't see why he shouldn't be paid in full, as the other tradesmen had been. Whereupon, Mr. Nicholls said the flyman was an impudent scoundrel, and told his wife how he would just serve the gentleman. He shouldn't have a sixpence until the rest had been paid; and when he called again, Mrs. Nicholls might tell him as much. But Mrs. Nicholls begged of her husband not to be too hard upon the man, for he seemed to be well disposed, and, as the poor fellow had said, he'd got a large family to support, and he was obliged to pay ready money for everything he had, and that she really thought he pressed so hard for his money merely because he couldn't afford to wait for it, and that he had said as much, indeed. To all of which Mr. Nicholls merely replied by asking his wife what the man's large family was to him? That surely was the man's look-out, he said, not his. Besides, even if he felt disposed to take the man's necessities into consideration, how on earth was it possible for him to do so? He'd merely ask her if Gordon's bill for the horse wasn't coming due in a day or two's time; and did she think it would ever do for him to let that go back? No! not for all the men with large families in the kingdom, he could tell her! Wasn't he bound, as a man of honour, to attend to that; for a pretty thing it would be indeed to have it rumoured about town that Wellesley Nicholls had done Fred Gordon out of his horse. People might say, perhaps, that he was imprudent, but, thank heaven, no one could say, and he'd take precious good care no one ever should say, that he was dishonourable!

To these sentiments Mrs. Nicholls gave her warmest approbation, and said she only wanted her husband to do all he possibly could for the poor man, and Wellesley to see if he couldn't spare the poor fellow half of his bill, just for the present. Whereupon Mr. Nicholls could contain himself no longer, and remarked how foolish his wife talked, and that she would go speaking without thinking. She knew as well as he did, that, when he went for his quarter's money the day after to-morrow, he must pay out of it Gordon's bill, fifty pounds, and half a year's rent, thirty pounds, and that scoundrel of a butcher the remainder of his account, which was twelve pounds; and then there were the expenses of moving—and they'd be a ten-pound note if they were a penny; and did she think he was going into a new house without a sixpence, or to leave himself to go about like a scamp, without a penny in his pocket? No, not for a whole regiment of flymen! Besides, it would be a good lesson to the fellow, and teach him to be more civil to gentlemen for the future.

When they were fairly in the new residence, Nicholls laid in a store of corn and hay, and sent his groom for the horse, with a letter, stating that the flyman's bill should be attended to as soon as Mr. Nicholls could make it convenient. But when the groom returned, and told his master that the flyman refused to part with the animal until his account was settled, Mr. Nicholls's rage knew no bounds; and Mrs. Nicholls declared that she had never heard of such shameful conduct in all her days; adding, that surely the man had no right to do it. To which her husband answered, that of course he hadn't; and that he would certainly commence an action against him the very next day, if it wasn't that the fellow was a positive pauper; and where was the good of going to law with a scoundrel that wasn't worth powder and shot? and, of course, that was the reason why he imposed upon gentlemen. But he'd be too many for the rogue now; for he'd take a policeman, and jump into a cab, and go up and formally demand the animal of the man—and, if he refused, why, he'd give the fellow in charge for felony on the spot, and then he should see how he liked that. Mrs. Nicholls, however, said that though it would serve the ungrateful man perfectly right, still, she did not think it would be quite prudent of Nicholls, under the circumstances, to do so; for the whole affair would be certain to get into the papers, and then there'd be a pretty exposure—letting the whole world know they couldn't pay a bill of thirty-seven pounds. So she thought the best plan, after all, would be to try and borrow some money somewhere, and pay the man, and have done with him.

When Mr. Nicholls got a little cooler, and came to turn the matter over in his mind, he agreed with his wife that it did appear to him to be the more advisable course to take, only he didn't exactly see whom he could go to and ask for the money.

After the governor's letter, it was clear there was no hope in that quarter. To be sure, he observed, he might be able to get a bill done, though he didn't like getting friends to lend their acceptances, and, in fact, he would much rather ask them for the money at once. And then, after knitting his brows and biting his lips for a time, he said to his wife, "By-the-by, Sara, don't you think your brother Reuben would be likely to lend it?"

"Why," answered Mrs. Nicholls, "I don't know; you see, you have always slighted him so, Wellesley, and it would look so odd going and asking favours of him after that. Besides, I haven't written to him for so long, that I shouldn't like to let him imagine that I only wrote when I wanted something."

"Pack o' nonsense," replied Wellesley; "why, isn't it easy enough for you to say that you've been prevented by illness from writing before; and that you have got a milliner's bill to pay that you've contracted unknown to me, and that I should make a dreadful noise about it if it came to my ears; and that, if he will only assist you this once, of course you'll promise him never to do the like again."

"Well, but," answered Mrs. Nicholls, "won't it seem strange, after all he said when he was last in town about our extravagance, to go telling him that I owe near upon forty pounds for dresses and things?"

"Forty pounds, indeed," indignantly exclaimed Mr. Wellesley Nicholls. "You don't, I hope, for one moment imagine that I am going to let your brother Reuben know that we can't pay forty pounds? That would, if you like, be making him fancy that his words were coming true, and that we were going to the dogs with a vengeance. Besides, to be poor and seem poor is the very deuce, as the saying goes. No, my dear, the very least that we can ask him for with any credit to ourselves is a hundred pounds."

"What! a hundred pounds for millinery?" cried Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls. "Oh! whatever will Reuben think of me, Wellesley dear?"

"Think?" replied Mr. Nicholls; "why, think it a very moderate sum for a person in your station in life; you forget who you are, my love. Besides, if you're frightened at all about that, you can spread it over two or three years, you know, and throw the children into the bargain."

At length the matter was settled; and as Mrs. Nicholls sat down to write the letter, her husband reminded her that she might as well ask her brother Reuben and his wife to come and stop a few days in town with them, as it would make it look all the more friendly, and there wasn't any chance of his accepting it. Besides, after an invitation like that, he didn't see how master Reuben could well get off lending the money, especially as he had always seemed so anxious to keep up the acquaintance.

When the letter had gone, Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls were all impatience for the answer, which they kept hoping each day's post would bring them, for, the worst of it was, Nicholls wanted the horse particularly to fetch his sister from the railway station in his own carriage.

## CHAPTER V.

MRS. REUBEN MARSH, with her bare arms all white with flour, was busily employed preparing her one o'clock dinner, when Barnes, the postman, called, on his rounds, with the letter from Farnham, and left a scented note, bearing the London post-mark, for her husband. Having drunk off a glass of ale—which, together with the fee of one penny, was his usual perquisite for delivering all letters out of the town—the postman inquired after the state of the crops and the children, and took his departure; while Mrs. Marsh, carefully holding the letter between her pasty fingers, turned it over and over again, to see if she could tell from where it came; and then, sniffing the perfume that still hung about it, she wondered whether it could be from their Sally. It were very like her fine writing; but Reuben hadn't sent them any present lately, so it couldn't be from her, that were clear. To satisfy her curiosity, she shouted to one of the boys in the yard, and told him to go over to the barn, and tell his master that there were a letter for him from London, and that he must come over directly. Then off the boy ran, making the poultry fly cackling and gobbling away in all directions, as he dashed in among them, and scampered across the yard.

In a few minutes Reuben made his appearance, with his black hat all over dust (for they had been winnowing), while his grey shooting-jacket and brown leather gaiters were covered with husks.

"Why, Molly, it be a letter from our Sally," cried Reuben, as soon as he saw the handwriting. "What be in the wind now? The letter ain't in mourning, or I should have thought some on 'em in London had gone dead, it's such a rare thing for sister to write to body. Come, take my hat, Molly, and give us a mug of beer, for my throat is full of chucks, and I can read it to ye, girl, while ye be getting the dinner ready."

Then, sitting down, he opened the letter, and cried to his wife—"Why, Molly, they be gone away from St. Wood's-wood, and danged if they ben't living in Hyde Park! Well, I only hope it will last, girl; but it strikes me that they be like many others, and don't know which side their bread be buttered on. Depend upon it, Molly, their next move will be either to St. James's Palace or the Queen's Bench Prison. Five hundred a year be only five hundred a year, wife; and they hadn't more than they knew what to do with in t'other place. This living for show, Molly, be to my mind just like your Brummagem plated spoons—uncommon grand for a time, but not at all likely to last; and the first hard rub they gets, why—off goes all the silver, and there be nothing but copper left for a body to put up with. Howsoever, let's go on with the letter. Well, come! Sally be a good-natured lass at heart, after all. She do say, she and Wellesley be afeared they've been turning their backs upon us, and do want us to go and pass a week with 'em in London. It be very good on 'em, ben't it, Molly?"

"Ah! replied Molly," shaking her head, "I always told thee she were a good lass; and thee should read, husband, before thee condemn'st."

"Whew!" whistled Reuben, scratching his head; "listen here, Molly. What do you think? why, danged if that extravagant young hussey of a sister of mine ain't been and run up a bill of one hundred pounds—do you hear that, girl? One hundred pounds, and all for dresses, and ribbons, and fine things; and unbeknown to her husband, too, as I'm her brother! And now the audacious bit of goods be afeard on its coming to Nicholls's ears, and do want me to lend her the money. Did thee ever hear the likes of it?"

"One hundred pounds!" exclaimed Mrs. Marsh. "Ah, well, I ben't astonished! I ben't astonished! for, when she were down here she were uncommon fond of fine things, and many a time I've told her it 'ud bring trouble on her; and you see I weren't far out, was I, good man? But she were such a comely lass, and had such a purty face of her own, that it were, as a body u'd say, quite natural to her. But a hundred pounds for fine things, Reuben! Bless us and save us, one hundred pounds! Why, what will the poor thing come to?"

"Want, I be afeard, Molly," returned Reuben. "Want for them, and bad times for us; for it be as much as a hard-working man can do to keep his own family clean and decent now-a-days, let alone other people's; but that's what we shall have to do before long. Molly, take my bare word for it. It 'ud be a wrong thing, I know, to go paying that hundred pounds for Miss Sally; and yet, dang it, I u'd never do, girl, to see Nicholls ruined by one's own sister. You see, if I do pay it, why the foolish, conceited thing will only go doing the likes again to-morrow; and yet if I don't, why, I suppose there'll be the bailies in the place, and all along of Sally. Come, give us a word, wife; what say ye, eh?"



"Why, I tell thee what, Reuben," answered his wife. "Can't thee allow the bailies to come in, so as to let them have a taste of trouble first, and then give the hundred pounds and pay them out. It'll be a lesson to them, like."

"Yes, wife," rejoined Reuben, "it 'ad be a lesson to 'em, surely; but the bailies, Molly, do charge so plaguy dear for their schooling, that I shouldn't wonder now if that little bit of larning were to stand them in near upon another hundred pounds at least; so I'll tell thee what I'll do, Molly. I'll pay the money for her without any fuss this once; for, you see, we've got before the world a little bit now, and Sally's been off our hands some time, and never had anything to talk of from us; besides, to speak the plain truth, I like the girl's principle about wishing to pay it back; and maybe the poor lass is main sorry for what she's been a-doing; though, to be sure, I should have been twice as well pleased if she hadn't gone asking us to pass a week with her at her fine place in London. You see, Molly, it doesn't look straightforward like; and what a plaguy fool of a brother she must think she's got to fancy we shouldn't see through that there—eh, wife?"

"Yes," answered Molly; "and the stupid thing ought to have remembered, that it be the first time she's ever done as much to 'ards us. Still, never fash thyself about that Reuben, but pay the money; and what be more, pay it thyself, for it be clear Sally don't know the value on it, and ben't in a fit state to be trusted with it, and would only go spending it on other things maybe."

"Well said our side, Molly!" returned Reuben; "leave thee alone for keeping all thy eyes about thee. So I'll do as thee sayest, girl, and write to foolish Sally for the name of the body who she do owe the hundred pounds to, and larn where she do live; and then I'll go up to London and pay it myself, and make sister happy in her mind again."

So saying, he told Molly to put the dinner back a bit, and sat down and wrote his letter to Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls. When he had done so, he read it to his wife, and, calling one of the boys, told him to put a saddle on Jack, and make haste over to Farnham with it as quickly as he could.

The next day, when Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls came down to breakfast, Reuben's letter lay upon the table. Nicholls, before handing it to his wife to open, bent it backwards and forwards to see if he could detect any enclosure, and gave it to her, saying that he was afraid there was neither cheque nor note in it.



"One hundred pounds! and all for dresses!"

When Mrs. Nicholls read the first part of the letter, in which Reuben, after scolding her, said that he would pay the money for her this once, Nicholls said, that he had always thought her brother a fine fellow at heart, and he was glad to find that he was not mistaken. On hearing, however, that Reuben would only do so on condition of his being allowed to discharge the alleged bill himself, Nicholls called him a suspicious lout, and said it was clear the fellow didn't believe that Sara owed the money, and that he had half a mind to wring the cloth-hopper's nose for doubting his wife's word, adding, that he should like to catch himself giving Mr. Reuben Marsh the chance of doing them a good turn again.

"Yes, I told you how it would be," answered Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls; "and that it would look so bad, saying that I wanted it to pay a bill for millinery."

"Psha!" replied Mr. Nicholls. "I've told you over and over again it would never have done for me to have asked for the money after the way in which we slighted the man. No, my dear. The fact is, that, though he is your brother, he's a mean fellow, and of course, from the manner in which he has been brought up, cannot understand the feelings of a gentleman. But I will soon let him see that he's not the only friend we've got in the world. I'll go to Lively Harry this very day, and get him to lend me his acceptance, for it's impossible to do without the horse, and that rogue of a fly-man doesn't seem at all inclined to give him up without his money; so you can just scribble a letter to your brother while I go and ferret out Harry. And mind, now, don't you go fawning to Mr. Reuben Marsh, but speak out like a woman, and give him to understand that you think he has acted in the business anything but like a brother; and tell him that, under your present feelings, the less you see of one another for the future, the better."

Mr. Nicholls found Lively Harry quite a different sort of person from Reuben Marsh; indeed, as Wellesley afterwards told his wife, he behaved throughout the whole transaction like a perfect gentleman; for he told him he was a man of the world and understood those things, and was always very ready to oblige a friend in so trifling a matter as his acceptance; indeed, for his own part, Lively Harry said he didn't see the use of limiting the commerce of the country to the amount of bullion in the kingdom, and had always been a man who had advocated the use of paper. But, though Mr. Nicholls soon became a convert to Lively Harry's lucid arguments on the currency, still he was disgusted to find that the men in the City were far from being in the same way of thinking; for it took him nearly half the day before he could discover any gentleman who was sufficiently enterprising to look upon the small piece of paper to which Lively Harry had affixed his name, and made payable at his tailor's in Jernyn-street, in the light of money.

At last, however, his wine-merchant gave him a letter to a gentleman of the legal profession and Jewish persuasion, who obliged him by converting the bill into as much gold as he said he could afford to give; whereupon Mr. Nicholls jumped into a cab, dashed up to the fly-man, paid his bill with all the dignity of a millionaire, and ordered the fellow to give the mare to his groom when he called. On reaching home again, he threw himself on the sofa, and told his wife he felt quite a new man; for, thank Heaven! that was settled.

However, Mr. Nicholls was no sooner out of one difficulty than he found himself in another; for, in two or three days' time, his wife informed him that the man who had supplied the carpets had sent a letter requesting the amount of his bill, as the goods had been sold for ready money. But Wellesley only answered that the carpet-man must wait until he had let his old house; and that with the premium he expected to get there he would pay him, for that he had directed the house-agent to ask £200 premium for it, which, he was sure, was little

enough, as he had laid out nearly double the sum in that place. So that, though the man was very assiduous in his calls, still, no matter at what time he came, he invariably found that Mr. Nicholls was "out." Until, at length, worn out of patience by his fruitless visits, the carpet-man sent a gentleman, who, not being known to the servants, obtained an interview with Mr. Nicholls, and took the liberty of presenting him with the copy of a writ.

Nicholls knew enough of his profession not to be frightened by such things as the first steps to a lawsuit, although, as he told his wife, he was annoyed at the man's confounded impudence; but, as the fellow had chosen to go to law, why he might make the most of it; and he'd take precious good care to keep him out of his money as long as he could. To be sure, it would be a trifling extra expense to him, but it would be worth that to punish the vagabond, and especially at the present moment, when Mr. Nicholls himself only wanted a little time to get round—so that he didn't mind what he paid for it. Sara was as well aware as he was that there would be the first quarter's rent, and one of the bills he had given for the fixtures, and Lively Harry's acceptance, together with the rent of the other house, all coming due in about six weeks' time, and he had calculated that they would just about swallow up his next quarter's money. Consequently, it wasn't likely that he was going to pay a rascally carpet-dealer, and leave a man who had behaved so thoroughly like a gentleman as his landlord had, unsatisfied. Besides, whatever he did, the first quarter's rent and the bill for the fixtures must be paid; and Lively Harry's acceptance was a matter of honour, that he could not put off—though the rent of the house in St. John's-wood he didn't care so much about, and he could let that stand over a bit. So perhaps, after all, it was much better for him that the carpet-man had done as he had; for now, thank Heaven! he shouldn't have that man coming and knocking at his door every day. However, he begged his wife on no account to let his sister know anything about the writ.

For about a fortnight Mr. Nicholls enjoyed perfect family bliss—driving in the Park every afternoon with his wife and sister; seeing sights in the morning, and visiting the Opera or the theatre at night. And then, feeling himself called upon to give what he styled "a house-warming" in his new residence, he issued cards of invitation for a grand evening party, which he arranged to come off a few days after he should have received the next instalment of his allowance.

When, however, Sir Giles's remittance came to hand, Nicholls found that by the time he had paid the landlord's rent, and the first of the bills for fixtures, and given ready money for several trifling articles which were required for his evening party, and which he could not obtain upon credit, the remainder of his quarterly allowance was only sufficient to enable him to carry on the housekeeping for the next three months; and he was in sad tribulation on account of Lively Harry's acceptance. But he would go and see the holder of it, and get him to renew the bill, which he had no doubt he would do for a five-pound note or two; though, upon second thoughts, it struck him that, instead of asking favours of a money-lender, it would be more advisable to get Lively Harry to lend his name to another and larger bill, and so take up the one falling due in three or four days, and stop the carpet-man's action, which he now began to feel rather uneasy about. Besides, he agreed with himself that it would look much better to take up the first bill that he had discounted with the gentleman in the City; and that, by doing so, he would so establish his credit with him—that of course the man wouldn't object to do another, for double or treble the amount, at any future time that he might be in want of such a thing.

But Nicholls, unfortunately, was reckoning without his host, and when he went to seek for his friend, he found him not quite so easy to be met with. He hunted for Lively Harry at his club, and at all his different haunts, but in each place the gentleman had not been seen or heard of for more than a week; and Mr. Nicholls being as ignorant as every one else as to the exact locality of his friend's domicile, he returned home that evening before the bill became due, miserable, tired, worried, and surly, for he knew not how to manage.

All dinner he scarcely spoke to his wife. When she tried to divert his thoughts by any trivial conversation, he gave short, snappish answers; and it was only the presence of his sister and the servants that prevented him from transgressing the forms of politeness.

As he sat alone sipping his wine, after his wife and sister had retired to the drawing-room, he kept twisting over and over in his mind the different means by which he thought he might save himself from the dishonour of letting his friend's bills go back unpaid on the morrow. At last he rang the bell, and told the page to tell Mrs. Nicholls that he wished to speak with her.

When his wife made her appearance, he began by apologising to her for any little rudeness he might have been guilty of towards her at dinner-time, saying that he was worried out of his life about that confounded acceptance of Lively Harry's, and that he was a ruined man if it was dishonoured. She knew what a chatterer the man was, and that he would be sure to go gossiping about it wherever he went; and then they would find that, after all the privations they had undergone to get to their present standing in society, they would be avoided and cut by everybody. He only saw, he said, one way of getting out of it at all, and asked his wife whether she would assist him in it. Whereupon Mrs. Nicholls said she would help in any way that lay in her power; but what could she do?

"Why, my dear," answered Mr. Nicholls, "you see, if I could only manage to take up this bill, the same party, you know, would, of course, be too glad to do another for me to any amount; and then, with that I could pay off the carpet man, and we should be all straight again; for the premium we shall get for the other house will just come in handy to take up the next bill. So that you see, Sara, we shall be certain to be all right for the future, if we can only get over this confounded temporary difficulty."

Mrs. Nicholls agreed with him perfectly, and said, she thought she knew what he meant; adding, that she should never like to write to Reuben for money again.

"Oh no! of course not, my dear," returned her husband; "nor should I wish you to stoop so low as that. What I mean is this, Sara—you see those diamonds that I made you a present of are of no use to you just now. You can have no occasion for them for a week or so."

"My dear Wellesley!" cried Mrs. Nicholls; "you forget our evening party takes place in three days' time, and I must wear them then."

"Tut! tut! tut!" responded Mr. Nicholls. "How foolish you do talk, Sara. I really thought that by this time I had made you understand the usages of polite society better. Don't you know that it's considered etiquette for the lady of the house, when she has a *r  union*, to let her dress be as simple and quiet as she can, so that her guests may have an opportunity of displaying their attractions? I'm sure your 'aquamarines' are as neat and chaste and ladylike as anything you could put on, or I should never have dreamt of making the proposal."

"That may be," replied Mrs. Nicholls; "but, after the diamonds, I'm sure I shouldn't be able to bear the look of myself in the other things; and, if it comes to that, why I'd sooner not wear any."

"Well, my dear," answered her husband, "you can suit yourself about it. All I know is, I must have your diamonds for a few days—unless, indeed, you prefer both of us being ruined, and that while my very sister is under my roof. So it's no use your pouting, Sara; but go up-stairs, like a good girl, and get them for me directly; for I can easily raise money enough upon them to get out of this fix, and let you have them back again as soon as I can lay hold of Lively Harry."

After a little further persuasion, Mr. Nicholls got the diamonds, and, shortly afterwards, the money; and in the morning he took up Lively Harry's acceptance; so that on the night of his party no one would have thought, from the happiness of his face, and the splendour and profusion of the entertainment, that he had ever been distressed for the want of a few pounds. Mrs. Nicholls looked splendid, even in her "aquamarines," and Wellesley's sister was a universal favourite. The rooms were crowded to suffocation, and the presence of Lady Verulam gave a stamp to the *r  union*, which Nicholls said he had been battling for all his life. In fact, ever since the opera-box, Mrs. Nicholls had been so assiduous in her attentions, both to her Ladyship and her "charming girls," that the acquaintance had rapidly ripened into a fashionable friendship; indeed, so much so, that Mrs. Nicholls, when the guests had left, and she was alone with her husband in the drawing-room, told Wellesley that while she was talking with Lady Verulam, her Ladyship

had asked her whether she had received an invitation to her Georgiana's approaching wedding; and that when she assured her Ladyship that she had not, her Ladyship said it was very strange, for the cards had been sent, she should say, quite three weeks ago, as her dear girls had set their hearts upon her coming, and would never forgive her if she didn't; and that her Ladyship had made her promise to be sure and be there; and that the wedding was to take place in eight days, at St. George's, Hanover-square. Whereupon, Mr. Nicholls, in the pride of his heart, told his wife that she had only got to thank him for his having taken the opera-box. But Mrs. Nicholls begged to ask who it was that had first advised him to have a carriage of his own; adding, that she should like to know if they would ever have been invited to the marriage if they had still been going about in that filthy fly of theirs. So dividing the honours, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls went to bed quite happy.

All the next day, Wellesley and his wife did nothing but talk about their good fortune in getting asked to so fashionable a wedding. Of course, he said, the whole account of the proceedings, and a list of the parties present, would be given in the papers; and they would be published to the world as moving in a circle that it had been the ambition of his life to reach. Sara must get a splendid new dress for the occasion; and he'd hunt up Lively Harry, and get a fresh bill from him, by which he could get her diamonds back again, and he had no doubt she would create quite a sensation there.

But, unluckily for Mr. Nicholls's projects, and to Mrs. Nicholls's extreme annoyance, Lively Harry was still nowhere to be found; whereupon, Sara didn't hesitate to declare that it would be impossible for her to think of appearing at so grand an assembly without her brilliants. However, her husband made her mind easy by bringing her home on the evening before the marriage a much more splendid *suite* of diamonds than her own, which, "like a good soul," he had hired for the occasion.

When they were ready dressed on the morrow, and Nicholls had sent for the carriage, he was astonished at the time the groom took in bringing it round; and, after a little while, he grew so impatient that he went into the stables by the back way. On entering them, he found that his brougham and horse had been seized in execution for the debt of "that scoundrelly carpet-dealer," who, in person, had accompanied the bailiff, and refused to let it go out of the place unless Mr. Nicholls was prepared to pay down the debt and costs.

Mr. Nicholls inwardly thanked his stars that, even in this trying dilemma, he knew how to behave himself like a gentleman. So, refusing to bandy words with the tradesman, he turned his back upon the fellow, and, slamming the door in his face, returned to his wife, to break to her the terrible news.

It had so startling an effect on Mrs. Nicholls, that no sooner had she heard what had happened, than she fell into hysterics, and sobbed and laughed so loudly, that, much to Mr. Nicholls's annoyance, his wife's cries brought his sister and the servants to her aid; and he saw that there was little chance of the seizure being kept a secret.

When they had led the besatined and bejewelled Mrs. Nicholls up to her room, Wellesley pulled off his white kid gloves, and wrote a letter to Lady Verulam, in which he told her that, owing to the sudden and dangerous illness of one of his dear children, he regretted that their duties as parents would prevent Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls being present at the Honourable Miss Georgiana Verulam's wedding that morning. And then, despatching the note by the groom, he turned round in his chair, and, fixing his eyes on the ceiling, busied himself with thinking how on earth he could prevent his carriage being "sold by order of the sheriff."

#### CHAPTER VI.

LIVELY HARRY was still not to be heard of at his club, and at last, after wasting two days, Mr. Nicholls was informed by his friend Fred Gordon, that he had gone into the north, grouse shooting, though he did not know exactly where, so there was no hope of relief in that quarter.

Both Wellesley and his wife puzzled their brains to discover some plan which was to save them and their carriage; and Nicholls, at her suggestion, tried to borrow the money from one or two of their fashionable friends, stating that he had unexpectedly been called upon to pay a large sum, for which, "in a moment of foolish generosity," he had made himself responsible for a friend; and that he would esteem it a great favour if they could let him have fifty pounds for a few weeks, to make up the amount, until he could receive an answer from his father, Sir Giles. But one was about making a trip on the Continent, and had obtained letters of credit abroad for all the money he had at his banker's; and another had paid a heavy bill the very day before; and a third had all his money locked up in speculation; but they were all extremely sorry, and begged to be allowed to sympathise with Mr. Nicholls in his misfortune.

When it came to the day before the sale, Mr. Nicholls grew so desperate that he agreed with his wife that anything would be preferable to having their brougham taken from them. He had no time to raise any money on his furniture; and somehow or other everybody seemed to turn their backs upon him—even the very people who had been feasting and dancing in his house a week or two ago. It would never do to let the carriage be sold. It would be all over the neighbourhood in a few days' time, and then he was a ruined man. Of course, it would tell every one as plainly as it could speak, that he couldn't afford to keep it, and stamp him as a beggar to the whole world. After all it had done for them, too! Was it likely that Lady Verulam would have asked them to her daughter's wedding, if they hadn't been "carriage people?" And, as he paced up and down the room, his wife asked him if he didn't think Lady Verulam would assist them? Her Ladyship had always been very kind to her, she said, and had made a good deal of her, and she didn't mind writing to her; for, looking at it again, she really thought her Ladyship would lend them the money. They could make the same excuse as before, and there could be no harm in trying.

Nicholls said, yes, but there *would* be harm; and if her Ladyship were to refuse, he would never forgive himself—for there would be an end, of course, to one of their best acquaintances. And yet, he felt, he oughtn't to leave a stone unturned so long as there was a chance left; though he would as lief cut his ears off as do it. Though, to be sure, it wouldn't look so *very* bad, after all; for Sara could say that he had a particular payment of five hundred pounds to make the next day, and she could score under "particular," to make it seem as if it were a debt of honour, and that he had only got £450 at his banker's, and, unfortunately, couldn't sell out of the funds, on account of its being a holiday at the Bank of England on the morrow; for, of course, Lady Verulam would never know whether it was a holiday or not. On which his wife observed, that, under those circumstances, she thought the story would appear more true if he wrote the letter himself. And Wellesley, on second thoughts, being of the same opinion, sat down; and, having written as much to her Ladyship, despatched it by the groom, directing him to wait for an answer.

When Nicholls read her Ladyship's reply, he crumpled it up savagely in his hand, and flung it, with an oath, in the fire, saying that the carriage might go, and the house after it, as, indeed, he supposed it would, soon; adding (like most gentlemen who get into difficulties of their own making), that there seemed to be a *fate* hanging over him, and that it was useless to attempt to stand up against it.

As soon as Mr. Nicholls had cooled down a little, his wife—who, of late, had grown half afraid of speaking to her husband when he was in one of those fits of passion which every day now became more frequent—gained courage sufficient to ask him what were the contents of her Ladyship's note. Wellesley told her it was a mere put-off—a trumpety excuse; saying that the expense of her daughter's wedding and marriage settlement had been such, that, ah—that she—ah—he forgot the exact words—but the long and short of it was, she either couldn't or, more likely, wouldn't do it. But, he continued, he wouldn't have cared so much about that. What annoyed him the most was, she said she was so short of money for the moment, that, at the very time my letter arrived, she was about writing to me for the £90 for the opera-box. However, he added, the mean old roused-up thing can't have it yet awhile, so she must wait; saying her Ladyship might take it just as she liked, and it didn't matter to him two straws bow. All he wished to heaven was, that he had never seen the opera-box or Lady Verulam, or carriage, or horse, or furniture, or anything at all, and the sooner he was clear of them all the better. On Mrs. Nicholls trying to soothe him, by assuring him that everything would turn out for the best, he only grew more wild, and upbraided her as the cause of all his distress; so that they passed the remainder of the evening, she in tears, and he in surly silence.



The carriage was sold in due course, and Nicholls, to brave it out, hired a fly and horse as much like his own as possible, and made a point of going into the Park for several days afterwards. For, in the importance which he attached to himself, he made certain that everybody in town must have heard of the seizure, and he wished to show them that the report was nothing more than a malicious slander.

In one of his afternoon drives he passed Lady Verulam's carriage, and was wounded to the very quick of his pride on seeing her Ladyship turn her head in an opposite direction.

Mr. Nicholls's tradesmen, however, taking a greater interest in him than the rest of the world, soon became acquainted with the circumstance of the seizure and sale; and, growing alarmed about the safety of their money, kept obliging him one after another with copies of their accounts, and requesting immediate payment, as they had all—strange to say—heavy bills to meet in a few days' time; so that Mr. Nicholls, finding his credit stopped in the neighbourhood, was not sorry when a letter arrived informing him that Sir Giles had suddenly been seized with illness, and requesting Miss Nicholls to return home as soon as possible.

Luckily for Mr. Nicholls, the return of Lively Harry to town enabled him to get another bill cashed, and so provided him with the means of paying ready money for such household articles as he had previously been in the habit of procuring on credit; while, by the aid of dexterous excuses and faithful promises of speedy payment, he managed to prevent his tradesmen from resorting to quicker and harsher means of obtaining their money.

Mr. Nicholls now began to hope that he should be able to weather out the storm until his next quarter came round, or at least until he could find a tenant for his old house, and so get the £200 premium, which would put him all right with the world again. But, unfortunately, his golden dreams were all dissipated by a visit from the jeweller. The firm had twice sent in his account, and called two or three times for their money; but Mr. Nicholls not considering the claim a very pressing one, had never troubled himself about attending to it. He had expected, at the least, one, if indeed he were not entitled to two years' credit; and he couldn't for the life of him understand what they meant by dunning him in that way.

When Mr. Nicholls saw the jeweller, he didn't hesitate to tell the man as much; on which the jeweller said that he had to apologise for troubling him so soon, but the firm had a large payment to make towards the end of the week, and they thought they might venture to ask Mr. Nicholls, as a favour, to let them have fifty pounds on account. Whereupon Mr. Nicholls replied very abruptly that he certainly should not think of doing anything of the kind, and that he had his payments to make, and that he should take the same credit as his father always had. On this the jeweller expostulated, saying that really the diamonds had been sold such a bargain that the firm had always looked upon it as a ready money transaction, and had expected to receive the amount of their bill long before this; which threw Mr. Nicholls into a great passion; and he said that he could not understand what the firm meant, for he had told their young man at the time, and as plainly as he could speak, that they would have to wait for their money; the young man had said that they had no fear about that, even if it were ten times the amount. To which the jeweller hesitatingly replied, that they certainly had no fear then. Whereupon, Mr. Wellesley Nicholls threw down the morning paper, and, rising up in his chair, inquired of the jeweller what he meant by his having no fear then. Did he mean to infer that he had any fear now? This made the jeweller stammer as he told Mr. Nicholls that he didn't exactly wish to be understood in that light; but that all gentlemen, the firm were well aware, were subject to misfortunes; and that they had been deeply grieved to hear of the seizure of Mr. Nicholls's carriage for a trifling amount; and they thought that, as they had had dealings with his respected father so long, Mr. Nicholls wouldn't allow them to suffer; and that, though they were perfectly satisfied with his honour, still, under the circumstances, from what had come to their ears, they were afraid that all—that is—it was an extremely unpleasant business to speak about, and he trusted Mr. Nicholls would make every allowance. But, to be plain, the firm had come to the conclusion that they would be happy to forego their account if Mr. Nicholls would let them have the diamonds back, and that then they would not think of charging him anything for the use of them. Mr. Nicholls bit his lips and trembled with passion and fear as he heard the man stammer out the proposal which he knew it was out of his power to comply with; and, drawing up himself haughtily, he looked sternly at the jeweller, and demanded how he dare come into his house and make such a proposal to the son of one of their oldest customers. But they should repent the day as long as they lived. And then, observing the man about to reply, he commanded him not to say another syllable, but to leave the house directly. Whereupon, the jeweller mutteringly observed that he didn't see that the proposal was one that Mr. Nicholls need fly into a passion about, and that, if he meant honestly towards the firm, he wouldn't, in the present state of his affairs, hesitate to consent to it.

Mr. Nicholls grew purple with rage, and he said between his teeth, "The present state of my affairs! Mean honestly! Listen to me, sir; you're the first person that ever dared to question my honour, and if you were not a person beneath my notice, it should not drop here. Perhaps you'll say next that I've been and made away with your trumpery jewellery?"

"You know best about that yourself, sir," returned the jeweller, sarcastically.

"Leave my house, you scoundrel!" cried Mr. Nicholls. "Get out of my house this very moment, unless you want me to turn you out!"



"He commanded him not to say another syllable; but to leave the house directly."

"Oh, you needn't put yourself to that trouble, sir," said the jeweller, doggedly; "I'll send somebody else to you, to whom, perhaps, you will learn to be at least civil. And, what's more, I'll soon find out whether the jewels are in your possession or not—for I'll go round to all the pawnbrokers in the neighbourhood; and, if I find out that you've been making away with our property, I'll publish the whole transaction to the world, and ruin you at once. And then, slamming the street door after him, he left the house rapidly.

For a few minutes Mr. Nicholls sat in his chair motionless, doubting whether the jeweller would put his threat into execution, and dreading the death-blow that he felt it would be to his reputation if he did. And he cursed himself and his own thoughtlessness. But there was no time for remorse. He must stir himself, and try to prevent the discovery. He had between twenty and thirty pounds in the house, and, what with his own and his wife's watch, and her trinkets, he could scrape together a sum large enough to get the diamonds back again before the fellow found out where they were pledged, and then he'd go to the jeweller's shop and fling them at his head, and give him to understand that he was a different man from what he seemed to take him for.

Hastily collecting the several articles together, Mr. Nicholls rushed out of the house, and made his way as fast as he could to the shop where the brilliants were in pledge, having, on the road, pulled his hat over his eyes and turned up his coat collar, so as to avoid recognition. When he reached the shop, having looked cautiously round to see that no one who knew him was near, he darted in, and, to his horror, discovered the jeweller himself in close conference with the man behind the counter. The noise of the door swinging to made the jeweller turn round, and, when he saw Mr. Nicholls, he burst into a contemptuous laugh, and looked at him from head to foot, with a sneer on his lips.

"So, I wasn't far out, my fine gentleman, after all, eh?" began the jeweller, "though I am the first person that ever dared to question your honour. But I'll take good care that I won't be the last; for if I don't make the whole neighbourhood ring with your roguery, why I'll forgive you the debt. You turn me out of your house, will you? I can tell



"He took the two little boys, put one on each knee, and kept telling them that he knew they were the boys for you 'dng."

you what it is, Mr. Wellesley Nicholls; it shan't be long before I turn you out of it."

Mr. Nicholls, without waiting to hear any further, turned on his heel, and made for the street; but the enraged jeweller, determined not to leave him, followed quickly after, abusing him as he went, and calling him "Swindler!" "Rogue!" "Impostor!" "Scoundrel!" and declaring that he would publish the whole transaction to the world in a court of law, and that he was glad to lose the jewels, if it was only for the satisfaction of exposing him. So that Mr. Nicholls, finding a crowd collecting at his heels, was glad to jump into the first cab he met, in order to get rid of his troublesome companion.

On reaching home, rushing up into his wife's room, he told her to get everything as quickly as she could, for he must get out of the confounded house and into the country somewhere, or he was a ruined man. When his wife inquired the reason, he told her to mind her own business, and to do her duty and get the things ready, as he had directed.

"But what have I done, Wellesley, that you should fly out at me so?" returned Mrs. Nicholls, half frightened at her husband's wild appearance. "I declare, you are quite an altered man of late, and one can't open one's mouth without your getting into a passion directly."

"No, I've not altered, Sara; it's my circumstances that have altered, not me," answered Nicholls, throwing himself on the sofa, and dashing his long hair from his forehead. "But you don't know how I'm worried, and hunted, and maddened by a pack of hounds of creditors barking and yelping at my heels. Turn which way I will, there are nothing but Bills! bills! bills! Oh God! oh God! what will become of us all?"

"Come, Wellesley dear," expostulated Mrs. Nicholls, kissing him; "Come," don't give way in this manner. Let me go and fetch you some wine—it will revive you. Why, whatever can have happened—eh, dear?"

"Oh! nothing, nothing!" replied Nicholls. "There, don't speak to me about it, unless you want to drive me wild. Let's talk about something else; and ring the bell for a glass of water for me, for I'm ready to drop."

"Well, then," replied Mrs. Nicholls, turning the conversation with an assumed cheerfulness, "where do you think of going to in the country—eh, Wellesley dear?"

"Oh! anywhere—anywhere!" answered Mr. Nicholls, "so long as it's out of the way, and those dogs of creditors won't be able to track me. We've got no money to go fooling about at Brighton, or Hastings, or on the Continent—though that would be the safest place, after all. So we must find out some little poking country place, where we can hide in security until the storm has blown over."

"Well, then," returned Mrs. Nicholls, "I tell you what, Wellesley, we had much better go down to Reuben; for, you know, he's always bothering us about our never going down to see him; and we could take the children and stop a month there well, without any expense. Besides, he'd take it quite as an honour your visiting him, and would be so pleased to see us."

"Yes," answered Nicholls, with a sigh, "that would have been the very place for us, certainly! But, hang it! there's that letter you sent him; it would never do to go fawning and cringing to a man whom we insulted only a week or two ago."

However, to his great delight, his wife told him that she had thought it best, after Reuben's offer—which, to say the least, had been kindly meant—to write a grateful letter to him, instead of the one Wellesley had wished her to send; alleging, by way of an excuse, that her husband found out all about the debt, and had paid the bill for her. Whereupon, Mr. Nicholls kissed his wife, and said she was a dear, good girl, and had quite put him in good spirits again; and told her to write to her brother that very evening, to know whether it would be convenient for him to receive them; and, if so, to say that they would be with him on Sunday next. For Wellesley informed his wife that, as matters stood at present, it wouldn't be prudent for him to put himself in the way of being served with a writ by venturing outside the house on a week day.

Directly Mrs. Nicholls had written and sent the letter, she (at her husband's suggestion) set to work and covered up the blinds with old newspapers, and closed the shutters in front of the house, so that it might appear as if the family were out of town, which he directed the servants to say to everybody that called.

To avoid being seen, they lived in the back drawingroom, trembling at every knock that came to the door, and passing the time in continual bickering, for with his growing distresses Mr. Nicholls had become too distracted to be civil.

However, Reuben's answer was so full of kindness and hearty friendship, that the prospect of their speedy deliverance from their troubles made them both brighten up a little, and live amicably until the Sunday arrived. Then they were up before it was light, and out long before any one was stirring, on their way to Nine Elms, so as to catch the first train to Farnham.

But though their spirits rose as they left London—the scene of their troubles—behind them, still they both inwardly felt considerable uneasiness at the idea of meeting a brother whom they had almost spurned, and they pondered over what excuses they could make on seeing him.

#### CHAPTER VII.

THE homestead of Reuben Marsh was situated a few miles on the other side of Farnham; so that when Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls arrived at the nearest railway station, they had still some distance to go, and therefore resolved to take breakfast at the Railway Hotel, and then have a post-chaise—as it would never do to let Reuben fancy that their

circumstances were in any way altered, or that their difficulties were the cause of their coming to visit him.

It was twelve o'clock before they reached the gate of the farm, when they found that the whole family had gone to church, and there was only the maid to receive them—who had quite as much as she could do to keep the dogs quiet, for they would come yelping and sniffing round them, as if they were strangers.

Mrs. Nicholls was almost delighted at the absence of Reuben and his wife; for she half dreaded to meet her brother, and was glad to have the welcomes deferred for a short time; although Wellesley looked upon the family's being out in rather a different light: for he said if he had known that there would have been nobody at home to receive them, he should never have gone putting himself to the expense of a post-chaise.

Sara felt a melancholy pleasure on returning to the place where she had passed her simple, unpretending girlhood; and, as she looked around, every object had connected with it some pleasant—and yet, she could not help feeling, some humiliating—associations. At the sight of every familiar object, there was a battle in her breast between her pride and her affection. It was pleasant to have each little incident of her happy youth brought back so vividly to her mind; and yet it was almost painful—for she dreaded that it might some day come to the ears of her fashionable friends that the elegant Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls had been born and bred in such a place.

There were the bright tins and coppers, as usual, arranged over the mantelpiece, polished like mirrors; and they gave her a slight thrill as she thought that her hands had once cleaned and brightened them up every Saturday morning for ten years at least; but she couldn't help wondering who did it now. The tiles of the floor, too, were as red as ever; and so were the old geranium pots—what a time they had had those geraniums! She declared that there was the nettle—one that young James Walker, of the "Poplar," had given her on her seventeenth birthday. And then, if there were not as many as seven hams hanging up! Why, they never killed more than two pigs a year when she was with them; and she wondered who helped Molly to cure the hams now, and how the last they had done together had turned out, and how red it used to make her hands look. Over the mantelpiece, too, there was still poor father's sword that he had worn when he was a volunteer; but her eye quickly turned from this, for she remembered what Reuben had told her of his strugglings to pay the old man's debts, and how she had never helped him even with a sixpence; so she went towards the window, with its red curtains, and began examining some of the cards and bills that were stuck in the little lozenge-shaped pane. So Reuben still had his malt from Edwards, of Farnham; and she wondered whether his son was married yet; and what an annoyance it would be if she were to meet them there—she must be friendly to them, and then Wellesley would think she was lowering herself. And then she wandered back to the chimney-piece, and found the little black velvet sweep that she remembered cutting out, now near thirteen years ago; and there were the little straw ornaments, tied up with blue ribbons that she had made to hold Reuben's pipe-lights; but she was a raw country girl then, and had no notion of taste; and she was roused from her reverie by old "Wolf," the sheep-dog, standing watching her, as if he knew her: he was quite a pup when Mr. McNeil, the cattle dealer, gave it to them; and how ugly he had grown, and how dirty he looked; how could she ever have noticed such a thing as that? Then she went into the farm-yard to look for her husband, whom she found in the stables with one of the men, looking at Reuben's nag, Jack, which he said was a capital, serviceable beast enough, no doubt, and he dare say a good trotter; though he added, with a laugh, that it wouldn't make much of a figure in Hyde Park.

When Reuben came back he was main glad, as he said, to see the pair on 'em, and he half crushed his sister's bonnet kissing her, and shook Nicholls so violently by the hand that his fingers were numbed by the grip; nor would he hear a word of the excuses they had arranged, and were stammering out, telling them that now they had come it was all past and done with, and to let bygones be bygones; and told them that now he had got them there, he would keep them; and Molly said that Reuben might do what he liked with Nicholls, but she would have Sally



all to herself, and that she would warrant she'd bring the colour back to her pretty cheeks again, for she had got plenty for both her and the blessed little bairns to do. And then they both wanted to see the children; and on hearing from Mrs. Nicholls that they were up-stairs with the maid to have their hair done, Reuben said, "Stuff and nonsense!" and sent Molly up-stairs to bring them down, just as they were, to see their old uncle Reu. And when they came, he took the two little boys, and put one on each knee, and kept telling them, much to Nicholls's horror, who smiled all the while, that he knew they were the boys for pudding; and whether they liked apple-pie and custards, for they were going to have some for dinner that day; and whether they would go milking the cows on the morrow morning, and have some nice hot milk; and whether they had ever made any hay, for he wanted some labourers; and he would give them a halfpenny a day and their beer; or whether they would ride the pony—but he knew they would like the hay best. The boys, however, blushed, and said they should like the pony best; but Reuben would have it that they preferred the haymaking, and that he would make their pretty little laughing faces as brown as berries before he had done with them; and then he told Nicholls and Sally that he had made up his mind to get all the neighbours over to meet them, and have a country dance or two, for he knew that Sally would be glad to see all her old friends and sweethearts again; which in no way pleased either Sally or her husband, though they both smiled, and said it was very good of him, they were sure.

While the cloth was being laid for dinner, Molly asked Nicholls if he drank ale; because, if not, she had got some excellent currant and cowslip wine, whichever he liked; but Nicholls said that there was nothing he liked so much as good country ale, which put Reuben in such spirits that he told him that he would give him a glass that he couldn't get for miles round; and how long it had been brewed; and how much malt and hops he generally put in; and that he needn't be afraid of it, for there wasn't a headache in a hog's head of such as that.

After dinner he told Molly to take the lass and the bairns into the meadow and round the yard a bit, and show 'em the little lambs, and the calf, and the poultry, and other sights, while he and Nicholls sat and chatted awhile; and when they had gone, he pressed Nicholls to take a cigar, for he supposed a pipe would be more than a Londoner could manage; on which the polite Mr. Nicholls said, yes, he was afraid it would be too much for him, though he wished to heaven he could get over it, for he had heard old smokers say that the flavour was so much better than that of a cigar. And then he asked him if he had brought his gun with him, for he could give him some prime shooting, as he got him permission to shoot over neighbour Wheelley's farm—and he had more land than any one that side of Farnham; and then there was his own farm, too; so that he might reckon upon good sport. On which Nicholls asked him whether the birds were plentiful that year; on which Reuben told him that that very morning, going to church across the eight-acre field, his little spaniel, Dash, had started a covey of as fine birds as he ever seed in his life; he should say there was as many as twelve partridges in it at least. And then he told him, if he was fond of coursing, that now the hop-poles were down he could have some fine sport, for he got young Jack Wheeler, of the Poplars, as used to be a sweetheart of Sally's, to promise to lend him his greyhounds; one of them run uncommon cunning, to be sure; the black 'un, Nero, had beaten all the matches round about, and there wasn't a hound in all the country that could come nigh him, and that he had spiked himself twice, and wasn't a bit the worse for it.

At tea he asked Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Nicholls if they thought they should be able to get down in the morning before dinner-time, and it shouldn't be any fault of his if they didn't, for he would come with the horn that he called his men in to their meals with, and blow it right against the door at six o'clock to a minute, and give them a run out in the fields before breakfast, and he'd warrant that Sally should come back with an appetite for breakfast that she hadn't had ever since she left them; and she could get Molly to show her where she used to make the bread—and he wondered what kind of a loaf she could make now; and she should try her hand at a bit of churning again; and kept reminding Mrs. Nicholls, to her great annoyance, of several other little humble offices, that, ten years ago, had been her special care, so that she and her husband were not sorry when the time came for retiring for the night.

In the morning, being very fine, Reuben took Nicholls over his fields, to show him his live stock and crops, and pointed out to him such a field of turnips as would do a man good to look at; so that by the time he had got back, Reuben laughingly told him that they must have gone five miles if they had gone a step, and asked him whether he felt shaky about the knees, and whether he'd prefer ale instead of tea with his cold meat for breakfast.

And so nearly a week went by, Nicholls now shooting and riding about the country, or fishing in the trout stream close by; Mrs. Nicholls, going about with Molly, and half reluctantly helping in her various homely duties; whilst the children, when they had tired out the pony, went jumping and hallooing about the carts, so happy and rosy, that, as Reuben said, it was worth while walking ten miles any day to see, and he must keep them down there and make young farmers of them.

One afternoon, as Mr. Nicholls was fishing in the stream, which was about five fields distant from Reuben's house, his attention was taken off the trout that had risen once or twice to his fly, by hearing his own name shouted out in a voice that broke upon the stillness of the place so abruptly, that it quite startled him. On turning round, he saw Reuben trudging along the turnip-field, and a stranger, in a surcoat, with a coat upon his arm, clambering over the gate after him. As Reuben advanced towards him, he kept calling out, "Nicholls, Nicholls, here be a young friend of thine come to see thee."

When the young friend drew near, Nicholls judged from his dress that he was from London, and, not remembering to have ever seen his features before, he turned slightly pale, for he had his misgivings that his whereabouts had become known.

Reuben told Wellesley, that, as the gentleman had come down on particular business, he thought he had better bring him over to him directly, especially as the gentleman wouldn't stop and take a bed, but wanted to get back to town that night.

The gentleman then approached Mr. Nicholls, and, drawing him aside, told him that he was sorry to say that he had got a copy of a writ for him, at the suit of Messrs. Soane and Co., the jewellers. The blood mounted to Mr. Nicholls's face as the young man handed to him the small slip of paper, and, eyeing him scornfully from head to toe, he asked him how he dare intrude upon his privacy, and told him that his employers were a pack of scoundrels not to have written to him before taking any proceedings against him. The young man was beginning to tell Mr. Nicholls that he need not vent his rage upon him, as he was merely doing his duty as a clerk, when Mr. Nicholls told him sharply, that he wanted to bandy no words with a fellow like him, and that he had better be off, or he would give him such a ducking in the stream that he wouldn't forget in a hurry; whereupon the young gentleman threw himself into an attitude of defence, and said he should like to see him do it.

At this juncture Reuben stepped forward and enquired what was the matter; and when the young man told him that Mr. Nicholls had insulted him because he had served him with a writ that he had come down there to keep out of the way of, Reuben said it was no fault of the lad's, and that Mr. Nicholls ought to remember that, however unpleasant the matter might be to him, still the poor lad wasn't exactly the party that he should go abusing; and then telling the young gentleman to go back to the farm and get himself something to eat, which, however, he declined, and took his departure, leaving Mr. Nicholls alone with Reuben, who smiled half contemptuously, as he now saw the cause of his brother-in-law's first visit to him these ten years. "Well, Mr. Nicholls," began Reuben, slowly, "did ye ever know the feelings of a man who, when a body dolead him to believe that he be wishing to make a friend on him, finds out that the fellow only wanted to make a tool on him, after all?"

"What do you mean?" asked Mr. Nicholls, pretending to be so busily engaged in disentangling his line that he could not take his eyes from it, even to look at his brother-in-law as he put the question to him.

"This be what I mean," answered Reuben. "For ten years gone thee and thy wife, my own dear sister Sally, did turn thy backs upon me and Molly, as if thee wert ashamed on us; and now, when the bailies are after thee, and thee be wanting a place to hide thy head in,

thee can think it worth thy while to come smiling and scraping to us, as if thee had come in love to me and not in mercy to thyself."

Mr. Nicholls, stung to find that the motives of his visit were detected, dropped his line, and, drawing himself up haughtily, said, "Mr. Reuben Mar-h, if you can think me capable of making your home my house of refuge, the sooner I leave it, the better; so, if you please, we will return to town this evening."

"No thee shan't, Wellesley," replied Reuben—"no thee shan't; thee knowest thee hast made it a house of refuge for thee, and thy brother will make it thy home. Now come, man, look in my face and say was Reuben ever slow to serve thee; then why mistrust his friendship, and come to his door with a lie on thy lips."

"A lie!" echoed Mr. Wellesley Nicholls. "If you were not the brother, sir, of my wife, your blood should blot out the stain."

"Yes, I know all about that," answered Reuben; "but you see, Mr. Nicholls, as I be the brother of your wife, I don't mind about speaking the plain truth to thee. So come, none of your tantrums, man; Reuben be thy friend, and a truer one than thee hast in all thy London folk. So come, let us know what that there writ be about, and may be we can set it all straight for thee."

"When I ask you for your assistance," replied Mr. Nicholls, with a sneer, "then it will be quite time enough for you to proffer it."

"Nay, nay," continued Reuben, "it be a poor friend that wait till he be asked. So come, let's see what it be for;" and picking the writ up from the ground where Mr. Nicholls had thrown it, he was about to read it, when Wellesley snatched it from his hand, saying that it was an unwarrantable liberty, and one that no gentleman would be guilty of.

This made Reuben half angry, but he only replied, "Out upon thee, man! thee beest stupid, and so main proud, that danged if thee doant make a favour of having a good turn done thee. Come, man, be plain, will a hundred pound serve thee? for I did tell Sally I would gie her as much some weeks gone, and maybe the bill thee paid for her has made thy money run short; so come, will thee please to let me serve thee?"

When Mr. Nicholls heard this, he gradually relaxed his dignified bearing, saying, "Please! You might have spared me that, Reuben. Do not imagine that I'm too proud to be insensible to kindness, though I certainly must own that I am still proud enough to avoid presuming upon it. I may have behaved somewhat underhandedly to you, and I can readily understand your feelings on the discovery of it; but still you should remember that a man naturally wishes to keep his misfortunes as much to himself as possible; besides, I knew your goodness at heart, and consequently was the more anxious to prevent your becoming acquainted with my distress, lest I might encroach upon the kindness which you now so generously force upon me. But come, Reuben," he continued, holding out his hand, "let us forget the past, and be better friends for the future."

As they walked homewards, Mr. Nicholls informed Reuben how the writ was for a debt that he owed a jeweller for some diamonds which his dear Sara—foolish, vain girl—would go falling in love with, and which he should have been able to pay had it not been that he accidentally learnt that Sara had written to Reuben to borrow a hundred and odd pounds to discharge a bill that his stupid little pet had contracted unknown to him, and which he paid with the money that he had set aside for the diamonds; for, as he told her at the time, he could never think of allowing her to become a burthen to her kind brother, however ready he might be to help her; indeed, the whole affair had preyed upon his mind for some time past, and he had lost through it he was really afraid to say how much money; in fact, he had business at that very moment—business in town of a most pressing nature, and which, of course, he must have thrown up if it had not been for Reuben's kindness.

Poor Reuben was delighted to hear all this, and immediately on his return home gave Nicholls a cheque for the amount of the writ, telling him to get back to his business, and when he could find a spare week or two, to remember that there was always a bed and a hearty welcome waiting for him at Farnham.

The next morning Nicholls and his family started for town, and the first thing he did on arriving there was to get the cheque changed, after which he sat down to write a letter to the jeweller's lawyers, telling them to send for the money. Whilst he was doing so a knock came to the door, which Mr. Nicholls no sooner heard than he took the notes from his pocket-book, and, spreading them out on the table before him, awaited the entrance of the visitor.

It was Lively Harry, who, being in the neighbourhood, had just called to see if he had returned to town, and, taking the easy chair, he asked Wellesley where he had been staying; and on learning from him that he had just taken a run down to Harrogate with Mrs. Nicholls for the benefit of the waters, Lively Harry had got something to say about every one there; and in the midst of one of his stories, seeing the display of notes on the table, he broke off by saying, "By the by, Nicholls, my boy, do you feel inclined to do a bit of sporting?" and on Mr. Nicholls inquiring into the nature of the sport, Lively Harry informed him that he had got up a pigeon match at the club for five-and-twenty pounds a side, with a young fellow there who was cockering himself up with the idea that he was a crack shot, though he would bet three hats to one any day to give him his two barrels, and then beat him. It was to come off at the Red House, and all the nob's would be there, and, if he liked, Nicholls might back him. Young Lord Cressey backed the other fellow, and it would be just the thing for Nicholls, for he would introduce him to some of the best men in London there, and he was sure of his money; besides, what was twenty-five pounds to Nicholls, even for one moment supposing that that young muff should win the match, which it was next to impossible that he should, with such an old hand as himself against him. So if Wellesley would, he had better give him the money, and Lively Harry would go and hand it over to the stakeholders, and then Nicholls could go with him and meet Lord Cressey in the evening, and arrange all about the time and distance, &c.

Elated at the idea of being mixed up with the fine people Lively Harry had spoken of, and seeing such a safe prospect of so speedily doubling the money he risked, Nicholls handed Lively Harry the notes; and when he heard the street door slam to as the gentleman left, he threw himself back in his chair, and saw that unless he could come to some terms with the lawyers, he was a ruined man.

#### CHAPTER VIII.

BURIED in his arm-chair, the young barrister, motionless as a sitting hen, passed a quiet half-hour in assuring himself that he was ruined—ruined—without hope ruined; until, as if enraged at meeting with no contradiction, he rose suddenly, and, pushing the chair violently from him, paced nervously up and down the room, stamping clouds of dust out of the roses in his Brussels.

When the clean-Berlined Parker, with his hair freshly wetted, opened the door to announce that "dinner was on table," he found his master stretched at full length upon the sofa, and in such deep thought, that it took three coughs and a sneeze before the boy could make his presence known.

Then, with an effort, Mr. Wellesley Nicholls called home his thoughts, which, in his pecuniary distress, had strayed as far as Boulogne—that bourn from which so few travellers return; and thinking it would be a good way of breaking the melancholy news to his Sara—whose opinion on the subject he rather dreaded—he dismissed the boy, saying he would rather not take any dinner, and that his mistress was to sit down without him.

Just as he had imagined, in about two minutes he heard the rustling of Mrs. N.'s silk dress on the stairs, and, jumping from the sofa, he again commenced his violent exercise of pacing the room at the rate of five miles per hour.

Mrs. Nicholls had rushed up-stairs in the full belief that her Wellesley, to refuse his dinner, must have been suddenly seized with illness. But when, on opening the door, she beheld him with his hair hanging over his forehead, and his shirt all crumpled, rushing about the room like a madman, she saw in an instant that it was his mind, and not his body, that was upset. To add to her misery, he would every now and then take up one of the best rosewood chairs, and, as he dashed it down again, call himself either a fool or an ass, or some other equally flattering epithet.

Though cut to the quick about her chairs, still Mrs. N., seeing something awful had occurred, thought it more prudent to remain silent

until the storm had blown over a little. But when she saw her Wellesley, in his fury, take from the table the open volume of "Court Beauties," and calling himself "a born idiot," dash it with a good aim, and all his might, against the pink rosette of her grand upright, her woman's patience could go no further; and, trembling for the shepherds and shepherdesses on the mantelpiece, she determined, come what might, to put an end to the scene. Besides, although Mr. Nicholls grew no cooler, the dinner did every minute. So, with a soothing voice, she advanced cautiously towards him, saying, in her most winning way, "Why, Wellesley my dear—my dear Wellesley, what to goodness is the matter?"

But what was her horror when Mr. Wellesley Nicholls, untouched by her gentle tone and manner, turned sharply round and asked her, as he wildly passed his fingers through his hair, "how she would like to go to the workhouse?" and considering that not two hours back he had in that same room asked her "how she would like to go to the Opera?" the poor lady might well feel some little alarm.

The first thing that struck Mrs. Nicholls, on recovering from her surprise, was that she had left the door open. One graceful bound, and it was closed. Then turning to her husband—who, terrified at the idea that Parker might have heard him, had suddenly grown quite calm—she very soon drew from him the full, true, and particular account of his last piece of folly.

"And how on earth I could ever have been such a fool, my dear, I can't tell," exclaimed the gentleman, as he concluded the story of his sufferings. "Five-and-twenty pounds! And what the deuce did it matter to me who shot the pigeons? Well, my pet, the only thing I can see is, that the children must be ill again, and we must all go out of town as quickly as possible."

"How ridiculously you do talk, Wellesley dear," replied Mrs. Nicholls, remembering she had two invitations for the following week. "Haven't the children been ill already twice this season? There—come down stairs, and eat the dinner whilst it's hot; and, after a glass of wine, you'll be able to find out fifty different ways, without going out of town. But, first, do put your hair in order—there's a dear; or the servants will be fancying all sorts of things."

She gave him one of her side-combs, and, when he had completed his toilet, led him down stairs to the dining-room.

As the chicken and the sherry disappeared, the barrister's spirits rose—until at last, with the cheese, all his difficulties had vanished, and he had a hundred different schemes to set matters all right again once more.

Directly after the cloth was cleared, he told his wife what he had determined on doing. He would go down to that jeweller's shop himself, and make the scoundrel a kind of half apology to wipe out all ill feeling between them. Then, taking advantage of the moment when the apology had done its work, he would take out his pocket-book and offer the villain one-half his bill in notes. A tradesman never refused money; and, of course, would, after receiving half his bill, come to any terms he liked for the payment of the remainder.

Just as Nicholls was on the point of starting, there came to the door one of those nasty single knocks that sound so much like a bill. Mrs. N., who, after her experience of late, was very clever in these matters, immediately jumped up, and with a kind of presentiment that it was the butlerman, rushed to the stairs.

But this time she was too late; and before she could say "Gone to the opera," the door was opened by one of the maids, who had a cousin in the police. It was an oblong, pink, violet-smelling note, brought by a young man in a claret livery. He was waiting for the answer, too. So Nicholls broke the seal directly; whilst Sara, confident that it was another invitation, kept asking him, "Whom can it be from, my dear? Whom can it be from?"



"Give me my money; I ain't going to be swindled!"

As Nicholls looked at the signature, he bit his lip, and turned slightly pale; and, when he had read the first line or two, he burst out in a mocking chuckle, saying, with every laugh, "Ha, ha! delicious!" When he had finished it, he threw the paper to Sara, who was still asking whom it was from, saying, as he sneered, "There! that comes of your fine friends! Perhaps you will answer her Ladyship's letter, and tell her I am going to the workhouse, and thank her and her opera-box for having sent me there so soon. Ninety pounds! why she talks of pounds as if they came to one like dogs—by whistling for. Well, I hope you will like the workhouse, my dear Sara."

At the word "workhouse" Mrs. N. glanced at the door. It seemed as if some fate was hanging over her, for there—despite the patent hinges—it stood wide open, and she could hear somebody moving in the hall. "Mon Dieu! Nicholls, taisez-vous," cried the lady; "les servants pouvez entendre dans le passage."

Then Mr. Nicholls, in a tone very little above a whisper, answered his wife, "that he did not care two pins if the whole world knew it, for in a few weeks everybody would hear of it, and then it would be all over." And, as he saw that Sara evidently didn't like the turn the conversation had taken, he went on to tell her, as he bathed his forehead with eau de Cologne, how the best thing he could do would be to get a broom, and sweep a crossing, or get a situation with some of his friends as footman; and concluded by requesting Sara to write a note to her Ladyship, stating that he had not yet returned home from a very important consultation he had that evening at his chambers, but that, as soon as he did, the letter should be given to him, and an answer sent.

Without deigning an answer, the lady obeyed, and filled a sheet of cream-laid, at the rate of two words in a line; and immediately afterwards, seeing that her Wellesley was in one of his nasty melancholy fits, she was seized with a sudden headache, which enabled her to effect an honourable retreat from the misery that Nicholls was dealing out so plentifully to herself and children.

(To be continued.)